



VOICE OF THE ILWU

HONOLULU HAWAII
LOCAL 142

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Longshore industry ready for negotiations



A statewide longshore industry caucus was held in Honolulu on March 14-15, 2002. Forty-five leaders from Hawaii, Maui, Kauai and Oahu Divisions participated in this meeting to draft and discuss negotiation proposals. The Hawaii longshore negotiating committee members are: Elgin Calles, Raymond Carvalho, Pat De Ponte, Wendall Kiaha, Nate Lum, Allen Rabut, and Nelson Rita (longshore); Stan Blackstad, Robert Chinen, Dennis Inouye, Tommy Maruya, Milton Ohira, and Leith Sukanuma (maintenance); Nate Dudoit, Rodney Rivera, Dana Shigemitsu, and Leonard Victorino (CFS-CY); and Jerry Calahate, Gary Quinabo, Kaiwa Sheldon, Howard Tanaka, and Dale Yokoyama (clerks). See related story on the ILWU West Coast longshore caucus, page 2.



Phase II of the construction planned for the ILWU Hall at 451 Atkinson Drive began after a blessing ceremony conducted by the Rev. Kaleo Patterson on Feb. 5. The blessing was attended by the Local Executive Committee, staff, and members of the construction team. (L-r) Rev. Patterson, Vice President Robert G. Giral, Hawaii Division Director Fred Galdones, and Maui Division Director Roger Taddol.



Bill Udani and Letty Pauso of the former Hawaiian Waikiki Beach Hotel accepted the "Most Inspirational" Award on behalf of fellow workers at Oahu Division's recognition night held on February 15. Nearly 200 workers lost their jobs last August when the hotel was sold, including Business Agent Karl Lindo (r) who was a HWBH cook.—more on page 4



Unit bulletin editors were among those recognized at Hawaii Division's 25th awards banquet held at the Hawaii Naniloa Resort in Hilo. (L-r) Betty Jean Pacheco of Unit 1501 - Hawaii Naniloa Resort, Anthony Kubera of Unit 1403 - MLP Keaau, Jeanne Yoshizawa of Unit 1402 - Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Corp., Corinna Salmo of Unit 1401 - MLP Ka'u, and new unit editor Palsa Tabudlo of Unit 1518 - Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel.—more on page 5

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LOCAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Economic and political power go hand-in-hand

by Eusebio "Bo" Lapenia Jr.
Local 142 President

"In unity there is strength." Or sometimes we say—"United we stand, divided we fall." We have a lot of different ways of expressing this idea that unity and strength go together. Even our own slogan—"An injury to one is an injury to all"—is based on this principle.

"The union makes us strong." This is a concept that working people have no problem understanding. They understand that a single worker is powerless to bargain with his or her employer for good wages and working conditions.

Workers know that their bosses have organization. Bosses organize themselves into partnerships, companies, and corporations in order to strengthen their economic power. These business organizations have their own labor relations experts or human resource and personnel directors. They have the backing of attorneys, financial advisors, and other specialized consultants.

Now days, with all the mergers and buyouts, many of our employers also have the backing and resources of large corporate enterprises—with nationwide or even worldwide reach like Starwood, Hilton, Seibu, PepsiCola, and the like. On top of this, employers join with other employers in the same industry like

the Hawaii Hotel Association, Auto Dealers, Retail Merchants, or the National Association of Manufacturers. Employers also join more politically oriented groups like the Chamber of Commerce or the National Small Business Association. Bosses understand the power of organization.

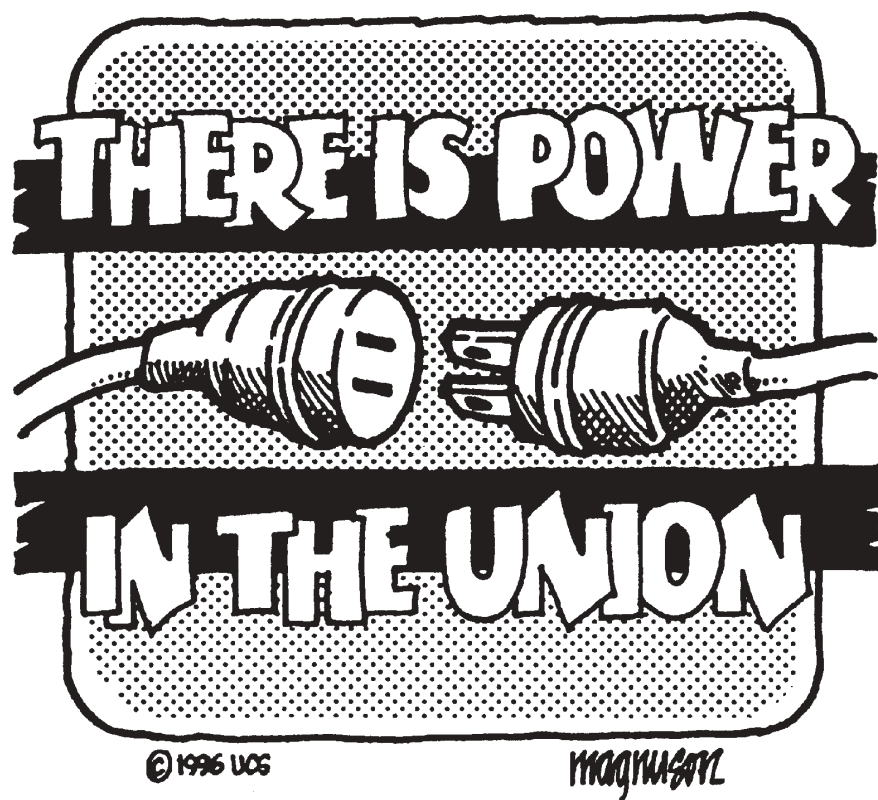
Power of unions

A single worker would be helpless and powerless against such a lineup of forces. A single worker is in no position to demand an increase in wages or protest unfair treatment.

This is why workers join and organize unions. This is the only way workers can begin to match the power and resources of their employ-

ers. By organizing unions, workers can have their own team of experts. They can have their own labor relation specialists—we call them business agents—negotiators, and contract administrators. By organizing into unions, workers can obtain the services of their own attorneys, pension and health plan consultants, and other experts.

In short, by organizing into unions, workers have the collective power to bargain on more equal terms with



Sustained and organized pressure counts in politics

their employers—and this pays off in better wages, conditions, and job security.

"The union makes us strong." This is a fairly easy idea for our members to understand when it comes to economic power and bargaining for better wages and working conditions. It still takes some convincing and mobilizing work on our part, but our members **do** come together when it's time to negotiate a new contract.

"The union makes us strong" — This is even more true and more important when it comes to political power. Yet, somehow, our members have a harder time understanding the need for organization and unity in politics. This is where we need to do a little more work educating our members that political strength only comes from organized political power.

Powerless as individuals

Just as a single worker is powerless against his or her employer, a single voter is powerless to influence the political process. It is only **sustained and organized** pressure that counts in politics. This **organized** pressure is obviously used at election time when you cast your votes. But this **organized** pressure must continue when the legislature

is in session to make sure the right laws are being made. And, this **organized** pressure must be used in the next and future elections to reward our friends and punish our enemies.

Why is it so important for workers to organize their political power?

Let's start with the vote. When workers don't vote in an organized fashion, their votes tend to cancel each other out. Or to put it more bluntly, unorganized votes are wasted. For example, suppose a group of workers choose not to organize their votes, so some vote for Candidate One while others vote for Candidate Two. Their votes have canceled each other out, and both candidates will feel **no** obligation to listen to these workers. On the other hand, if the workers studied the issues and decided to put **all** their votes behind Candidate Two, then **all** their votes will count, and if elected, Candidate Two will be more inclined to help these workers.

Individual workers don't have the time and resources to keep track of all the issues and what the candidates have done on these issues. This is why we have a union Political

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Unorganized votes are wasted votes



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MAINLAND LONGSHORE NEWS

West Coast longshore caucus prepares for contract talks

On the eve of the Longshore Contract Caucus the employers threw down the gauntlet—Pacific Maritime Association CEO Joseph Miniace, in a story planted in the shipping industry publication the Journal of Commerce, declared he wanted major changes in work rules and a complete revamping of the arbitration process or he would lock out the union.

But if the PMA's intent was to intimidate the union, it backfired. Instead, the Caucus united in firm resolve and went about its work of deciding the division's negotiating positions and taking care of its other business.

Bargaining preparation

In figuring out the Division's negotiating positions, the 81 Caucus delegates, representing every longshore, clerks and foreman's local on the West Coast, had to consider more than 250 resolutions brought from their locals, as well as the recommendations from the Coast Committee (the four top officers of the Division, International President Jim Spinosa, International Vice President, Mainland Bob McEllrath and Coast Committeemen Ray Ortiz Jr. and Joe Wenzl), the Jurisdiction Committee and the Pension and Welfare Committee. Over the two weeks of discussion and debate the delegates settled on priorities and directions for the Negotiating Committee to take to the bargaining table, as well as a number of specific proposals.

The principle of taking care of the whole ILWU family guided the delegates in setting priorities. Number one on the negotiating agenda is maintenance of benefits, that is, assuring that all the health and welfare benefits pensioners and active longshore workers and their families have come to depend on is secured. The delegates also agreed to a number of other proposals for specific additions to the benefits package to bring to the table.

In the same spirit of watching out for the future of their families, the delegates' number two concern is pensions, including looking out for current retirees, the elders who built the union. Pensioners are now paid benefits at three different rates, depending on when they retired. The delegates affirmed support of the policy of collapsing the various tiers. They are also seeking to raise the surviving spouse benefit from the current 55 percent of the pension. Increases in pension rates for active members will also be sought.

Priority number three is jurisdiction—making sure the work of loading and unloading the cargo in West Coast ports and documenting the flow of that cargo remains the job of ILWU longshore workers and future generations of ILWU mem-

bers. Without that jurisdiction there would be no jobs, no benefits, no pensions and no union to secure them.

As the employers introduce new technologies onto the docks, new issues arise as to who will operate that equipment and how the work will be done. Already the union has seen some PMA employers using new computer technology to move work of documenting the movement of cargo and vessel planning off the waterfront to non-union offices. These actions are in violation of the current contract which specifically states this work is to be done by ILWU marine clerks.

The union stands by the principles of the Mechanization and Modernization Agreement that it signed with the PMA in 1960 when the two sides worked out how containerization would be introduced on West Coast ports—that no matter how the work of loading and unloading ships' cargo and the documentation of it is changed, ILWU members will still do it and be trained to do it on the new technology. Labor-saving devices may eliminate some jobs, but other jobs are disappearing not because of technological advances, but simply because someone else is doing them. If those jobs were brought back to ILWU members, it would offset much of the losses from new technology. Where the employers expand to satellite container yards, the union

“This is no way to begin negotiating,” said ILWU International President Jim Spinosa. “Instead of putting proposals on the table, he’s putting a gun.”

will follow its work there.

The delegates also mandated the Negotiating Committee to secure the traditional longshore and clerk work that is expanding on the docks in the future. As more and more complex machinery and technology is used in longshore work, the work of maintaining and repairing that equipment continues to expand. ILWU mechanics do that work in many, but not all, terminals, and the Caucus wants that remedied in so far as enforcing the traditional and contractual work of the ILWU.

As steam ship lines are forming alliances and partnerships, intraport drayage—trucking containers from one terminal to another—is on the rise. The contract requires that this work remain with the ILWU since the movement of the cargo is, as the contract says, still under the control of one of the union's employers. In the last contract the union negotiated language agreeing to training for some ILWU members to drive the trucks, but the PMA has assigned little of the work to union members. The Negotiating Committee will try to nail this down.

Although the PMA's Miniace has

said he wants to totally revamp the arbitration process, the delegates definitively instructed the Negotiating Committee to make no changes in the arbitration and grievance sections of the contract that were not mandated by the Caucus. The arbitration process has been in place since 1948 and the union believes its effectiveness is the reason there has been only one West Coast strike since then. But in direct response to the employers' threats of a lockout and their establishment of a lock out fund, the delegates unanimously passed a motion setting up a strike fund and assessing each Longshore Division member \$100 per month for the fund. The strike fund will be used to cover unusual costs related to contract negotiations or in the event of a strike or lockout. Any monies not used will be returned to the members.

Other business

The Caucus took time to deal with other matters affecting the Longshore Division. ILWU Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin flew out from Washington, D.C. to

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Teamster Port Division Director George Cashman (at the podium) told the Caucus his union would be right behind the ILWU in its longshore contract negotiations, to the approval of (from left to right) Coast Committeeman Joe Wenzl, Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz Jr., International Vice President Bob McEllrath and International President Jim Spinosa. Cashman was joined by two Teamster International Vice Presidents, Chuck Mack from the Bay Area and Jim Santangelo from Los Angeles.

Exceptional members honored by Oahu Division

HONOLULU—Outstanding work should be recognized, and that is exactly what Oahu Division did as they honored some very deserving members and retirees at a special Division Executive Board dinner meeting on February 15, 2002.

The presentation itself was a group effort—Division Director Ray Camacho would announce the category; the business agent of the unit involved would present the award; and the recipient would often say a few words of thanks.

Two on-the-job stewards earned special recognition as Steward of the Year—Mary Henry of Unit 4420 - Kapiolani Hospital and Kurt Ishihara from Unit 4411 - Schuman Carriage. As he presented the award to Mary, business agent Brian Tanaka explained she was the first and only member to ever call him on the phone and volunteer to be a steward. Kurt credited his success as a steward to “a lot of good teachers”—mainly his unit officers and business agents.

The Division presented the Inspirational Award to the Hawaiian Waikiki Beach Unit, which is still fighting for justice after the hotel was sold and 200 members lost their jobs. Division Director Ray Camacho explained that former members of the hotel, including William Udani and Leticia Pauso, testified in support of legislation that would prevent this from happening again by protecting workers’ jobs when a business is sold.

Charlie Sham, from Unit 4403 - Hawaii Baking, and Ruby Shimabukuro, from Unit 4405 - Foodland, were recognized as the top Unit Leaders of the Year. In accepting his award, Charlie explained the union itself gave him the opportunity to make a contribution to his fellow workers. “What I love about this union is that it empowered me,” said Charlie. “If something is not right, you can stand up to your boss.”

Ruby and co-editor Mary Ann Abregano won the Statewide Unit Editor of the Year award for the outstanding unit bulletin they produce for members of Foodland Supermarket. The bulletin played an important role in educating and mobilizing members during difficult contract negotiations with management. Dorothy Sakamoto was honored as the Oahu Unit Editor of the Year for the high quality of the bulletin she produces for Unit 4301 - Dole Fresh Fruit.

The Community Service award went to George Cox, of Unit 4409 - Island Movers, and Darlene Palmerton, of Del Monte - Kunia.

Unit 4419 - Pacific Machinery, Unit 4411 - Schuman Carriage, and Unit 4405 - Foodland Supermarkets were chosen as the top Units of the Year.

Most Valuable Pensioner of the Year awards to Mary Barrionuebo of the Dole Pineer Club and Fred Lee of the Oahu Pensioner Council. In his remarks, Fred thanked the union for remembering and appreciating the retirees. He also stressed the need for retirees to remain active, and one way they can do so is by joining an ILWU retiree club.

These exceptional ILWU members and retirees deserve all the thanks and support we can give them.



Schuman Carriage Motors, Inc. members (l-r) Wes Yogi, Kurt Ishihara and Richard Desmond accept the Outstanding Unit Award (30-99 members) from Business Agent Dave Mori (second from right). Ishihara also received recognition as Steward of the Year (male).



Mary Henry of Unit 4420 - Kapiolani Hospital accepts the Steward of the Year (female) award from hospital Business Agent Brian Tanaka. Henry was “the first and only member to ever call me on the phone and volunteer to be a steward,” said Tanaka.



George Cox of Unit 4409 - Island Movers, Inc. was recognized for service to his community.



(Above) Mary Ann Abregano and Ruby Shimabukuro of Unit 4405 - Foodland Super Market, Ltd. received the David E. Thompson Award for Statewide Excellence, the highest achievement for unit editors (tied with Jeanne Yoshizawa of the Big Island, see page 5). Shimabukuro was also recognized as Unit Leader of the Year; her male counterpart was Charles Sham of Unit 4403 - Hawaii Baking Co. (Left) New Unit 4301 - Dole Fresh Fruit editor Dorothy Sakamoto received the First Place Award for an Oahu Unit Bulletin. This is Sakamoto’s first year as unit editor. Runners-up were Haden Marriott and John Jardine III for Unit 4201’s Stevedore News.



Oahu Division Pension Program Coordinator and Business Agent Larry Ruiz presents the Most Valuable Pensioner (female) award to Mary Barrionuebo of the Dole Pineer Pension Club. Former ILWU Contract Administrator Fred Lee (not pictured) was also honored as Most Valuable Pensioner.



Hawaii Division: 25 years and still going strong

HILO—Hawaii Division pioneered the Unit Awards banquet as a big social event that would involve members and their families and give public recognition to “model” units for their outstanding union performance. The first awards banquet was held on January 27, 1978, in the Crown Room of the Naniloa Hotel, and was attended by 225 members and their spouses. Nine units were given “best units” awards for their “effective union operation at the individual company level.” Two unit editors were also recognized for winning a statewide excellence award for two-years in a row.

Twenty-five years later, Hawaii Division continues to follow the same, successful formula for its annual unit recognition banquet.

This year, the banquet was held at the Naniloa Hotel’s Crown Room on February 10, 2002. About 250 members, their spouses, retirees, and guests gathered to honor the outstanding units and to enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, and entertainment.

Five units were recognized for their good work: Unit 1413 - Hawaii Motors and Unit 1417 - Pacific Machinery for small unit of less than 30 members; Unit 1201 - Young Brothers for medium size units with 30-99 members; and Unit 1401 - Ka’u Orchard and the Unit 1516 - Mauna

Hawaii Division pioneered the Unit Awards banquet as a big social event that would involve members and their families and give public recognition to “model” units for their outstanding union performance.

Lani Bay Hotel for large units with more than 100 members. Malcolm Osaki accepted the award on behalf of Hawaii Motors, and Rankin

Gossert accepted on behalf of Young Brothers. Rey Gascon represented Ka’u Orchard, and Richard Kaniho accepted the award on behalf of the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel unit. The Hawaii Motors unit was given special

recognition, as the unit was lost after a change in ownership.

Unit editors were also recognized for their work in publishing bulletins that keep members informed about

union programs and activities. Jeanne Yoshizawa, who edits the bulletin for factory workers at Mauna Loa Mac Nut, also won the David E. Thompson award for statewide excellence.

Remembering the fallen

Part of the awards program was dedicated to three departed ILWU leaders who were remembered for their dedication and contribution to the union—Issac “Buzz” K-Aloha from longshore, Herbert Aki from Hawaii Baking, and retired business agent and membership service director Wataru Kawamoto. Members of the K-Aloha and Kawamoto family were present to receive the awards. Bert Yasui, chair of the Hawaii Baking unit, made a special trip to Hilo from Honolulu to pay tribute to Aki.

In the last and final presentation, Tom Poy presented the Honokaa Pensioners Club with a cash prize from the ILWU Memorial Association for being the most active club and recruiting the most new members.



Local President Eusebio “Bo” Lapenia Jr. congratulates Unit 1413 - Hawaii Motors Unit Chair Malcolm Osaki, who accepts an award for Outstanding Unit (30 members or less) on behalf of his fellow workers. Unit 1413 was also given special farewell recognition because the unit was lost when the company was sold last December.



Unit 1516 - Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows Chair Richard Kaniho accepts the award for Outstanding Unit (100 or more members) on behalf of Mauna Lani workers.



Unit 1401 - MLP Ka’u tied with Mauna Lani Bay for Outstanding Unit (100 or more members). 1401 1st Vice Chair Rey Gascon represented his unit and accepted the award on their behalf.

Outstanding Maui members recognized

WAILUKU—Maui Division recognized outstanding members, pensioners and units at its Division Executive Board (DEB) meeting held on February 20, 2002 at the Wailuku ILWU Hall.

This year’s Outstanding Female Unit Chairperson was Star Medeiros of Unit 2505 - The Westin Maui. Lena Staton of Unit 2512 - Renaissance Wailea Resort and Janelle Kanekoa of Unit 2514 - Kapalua Bay Hotel tied for Runner-up. The Outstanding Male Unit Chairperson was Rikizo Tengan of Unit 2404 - Pacific Machinery. The Runner-up in this category was Unit 2523 - Ritz Carlton Kapalua’s Robert Flores Sr.

Donna Domingo of Unit 2502 - Maui Lu Resort received the award for Outstanding Unit Leadership, Female, and Jiuna Ulep of Unit 2501 - Royal Lahaina Resort was the Runner-up. The Outstanding Unit Leadership, Male award went to Bob Zahl of Unit 2101 - HC&S, and

Stephen Castro of Unit 2514 - Kapalua Bay Hotel was Runner-up.

Maui’s Outstanding Female Member for 2001 was Merlita Crespín of Unit 2101 - HC&S. The Runner-up award in this category went to Wendy Botelho of Unit 2525 - Maui Beach Hotel. James Chester of Unit 2101 - HC&S was Merlita’s male counterpart, and male Runner-up was Unit 2526 - Sheraton Molokai Lodge and Beach Village’s Audwin Calario.

Last year’s Outstanding Female Retiree was Felisa Asuncion, and the Runner-up was Fely Corpuz. The Outstanding Male Retiree was Allen Alconcel, followed by Runner-up Joe Adzuara.

Maui also awarded Outstanding Community Service recognition to Ruby Yoshisato of Unit 2306 - Maui Pineapple Co. Cannery and Howard Takemoto of Unit 2406 - Hawaiian Cement.

The Outstanding Unit awards were given out in categories based on the

size of the unit.

The Outstanding Unit with 1-100 Members was Unit 2406 - Concrete Industries, which includes Ameron, Hawaiian Cement, Walker Industries, and Maui Blocks. Runner-up in this category was Unit 2508 - Lahaina Shores Beach Resort.

The Outstanding Unit with 101-300 Members was Unit 2501 - Royal Lahaina Resort, followed by Runner-up Unit 2514 - Kapalua Bay Hotel.

Unit 2505 - The Westin Maui was the Outstanding Unit with 301-500 Members. There was a tie between Lanai Resorts and Maui Pineapple Co. Cannery for Runner-up in this category.

Finally, the Outstanding Unit with 501+ Members was the only sugar unit left on Maui—Unit 2101 - HC&S. Both Grand Wailea Resort and The Ritz Carlton Kapalua tied for Runner-up.



Unit 1201 - Young Brothers Ltd. was honored as Outstanding Unit (30-99 members). Accepting on behalf of his members, who work at ports in both Hilo and Kawaihae, was Unit Chair Rankin Gossert.

WASHINGTON REPORT

107th Congress: 2002 ILWU national legislative agenda

By Lindsay McLaughlin
ILWU Washington Representative

Security will be the operative word for the second session of the 107th Congress. Whatever Congress does or does not do will be done in the name of providing Americans with increased security. The sticking point will be how security is defined and what it will cost—both in terms of dollars and civil liberties. Congress has already shown it has no problem acquiescing to President Bush and his ultra-right attack dog Attorney General John Ashcroft. The Administration is more than willing to let the Constitution and the Bill of Rights take a back seat to the pursuit of the radical right agenda.

New security spending will be debated against the backdrop of a non-existent budget surplus. After four years of record budget surpluses, the country is now faced with red ink. The Republicans say that the recession and new spending to combat terrorism caused the return of the deficit. The Democrats believe that Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy led to the incredible shrinking budget. The GOP vows that the tax cut will be repealed over the dead body of their President. The Democrats have resolved not to pass any economic stimulus that does not give assistance to laid off working men and women of this country and are considering delaying further implementation of the tax cut until the economy stabilizes.

On the spending front, there is bipartisan agreement to increase defense, homeland security measures and farm programs. The Democrats are pushing for spending increases in education, health care and an increase in the minimum wage, while the Republicans are pushing for a missile defense program.

While Congress agrees on increasing spending on defense and homeland security, the best approach to take is still in contention. Most Democrats want to spend more money on protecting our borders, and on increased infrastructure needs of our nation's airports, sea ports and power plants. Bush wants to increase the budget for missile defense and spend more money to secure Russia's stockpile of chemical, nuclear and biological weapons.

Another challenge this Congress will face this session is the expiration of the welfare law. Almost six years ago Congress and President Clinton replaced the welfare system with work requirements and time-limited benefits. Progressives opposed the radical changes because families who, for whatever reason, could not adapt to the new changes would be ravaged with hunger, homelessness and despair. As the economy worsens, more families

at the bottom rung of the economic ladder will suffer this fate.

The debate on reauthorizing the welfare law will likely break down along party lines. The Republicans believe that compassion can be found by working for a check—and there will be strings attached. Bush has expressed disappointment that welfare reform has failed to reduce the number of single-parent families in the system and wants to find ways to encourage marriage among recipients. He also has not given up on his faith-based initiative and wants to help religious groups get involved in the process.

Democrats want to increase benefits for recipients who cannot find work and assist those who have low-paying jobs to stay employed and move toward independence with such programs as day-care subsidies and job-training programs. Also on the table is restoring benefits for legal immigrants and renewing the food stamp program. The debate is expected to mirror that of welfare reform.

The Farm program has to be re-

authorized this year. ILWU sugar workers in Hawaii and Crockett, California have an interest in the legislation. The ILWU is advocating a policy that would provide an environment in which American sugar workers can produce a high quality product at a reasonable price in the face of unfair competition abroad—ILWU members have to compete with child labor and exploited labor overseas.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill that hopefully will keep ILWU members working. The draft Senate bill sponsored by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) would accomplish this goal as well. Last year, the Senate Republicans filibustered the Harkin farm bill. But Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) will try to bring it up again for a vote early this year.

The health care debate in Congress the last couple years has been about patients' rights in dealing with HMOs. The House and Senate once again passed different versions of a Patient's Bills of Rights. The bills are widely different and have yet to go to conference, but a compromise may be reached early this year. The central sticking point is the health plans' liability in insurance coverage disputes.

The House Bill puts tighter restrictions on a patient's right to sue a health plan than the Senate version. In addition, the House Bill includes an expansion of tax-sheltered medical savings accounts. A central issue that has not been resolved is whether new federal standards would override liability and grievance review procedures that are in place in 16 states. The tone of the debate will be colored by the increase in health care costs and spending and the increasing number of uninsured working men and women resulting from the weak economy.

Although Bush is calling for Social Security reform, Congress has not expressed interest in taking up the issue. The bipartisan commission Bush appointed to give politicians

cover for destroying the nation's most popular program was unable to decide on any one plan for reform—so it submitted three. Two of the plans call for slower benefit increases and conclude that savings accounts by themselves would not guarantee the long-term solvency of Social Security.

Generally, the Democratic caucus believes that Social Security should remain, as it is—a retirement income program with minimum benefits guaranteed by the U.S. government. Republicans claim the program is outdated and want to gamble the safety net on private markets with hopes of generating a better return on the payroll taxes that working men and women pay into the system. With the recent downturn of the markets, this is unwise and even bizarre—particularly in light of the recent Enron scandal.

Congressional committees are investigating the scandal-plagued Enron corporation, the seventh largest company in America, that recently went bankrupt—the same corporation that stole billions of dollars from consumers in California when it drove up the price of energy in that state. Through a process of setting up secret shell companies created and run by Enron, the company made their financial performance look much better than reality by billions of dollars. When the truth came out about the actual health of the company the business collapsed in a matter of weeks.

More than 6,000 Enron employees lost their jobs and their life savings in the bankruptcy. While the bosses at Enron were selling more than \$1 billion of their shares of Enron and getting richer in the process, they froze their employees 401 (k) accounts, leaving them to watch helplessly as their retirement evaporated.

At issue is the political nexus between this corrupt company and political leaders—particularly the Bush Administration. It is no secret that Enron is Bush's largest career campaign donor and flew him on private jets during his campaign for the Presidency. Enron brass met repeatedly in secret with Vice-President Cheney to develop a national energy program. Enron's long-term strategy was to line the pockets of corporate executives off policies supported by the Bush Administration—deregulation of electricity, water and natural gas. This sorry saga is nothing new—America's workers get thrown overboard while the rich get richer and politicians amass campaign war chests with corrupt corporate money.

The real scandal in Washington is this constant profession from both major political parties and the President about the need to secure the jobs of Americans. Not one thing has been done to benefit America's workers this Congress. President Bush can talk about his compassion for workers all he wants, but workers don't need to

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WASHINGTON REPORT

Bush bypasses Senate with recess nominations

By Brian Davidson
ILWU Legislative Assistant

Not content to let Enron screw its workers and other unionists holding pension fund investments with impunity, President Bush has invoked a seldom used parliamentary procedure to appoint the blatantly anti-worker Eugene Scalia to the Department of Labor. Bush acted Jan. 11, 2002 to install two conservative nominees, sidestepping the Democratic-controlled Senate. Scalia, son of ultra-conservative Supreme Court Justice Anton Scalia, was installed as Solicitor for the Labor Department and Otto Reich was installed as Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere affairs.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) and the Senate Democrats had promised to submit Scalia's nomination to the full Senate, but said that the conservative lawyer did not have the 60 votes necessary to overcome a filibuster. Daschle said that Scalia's "record of hostility toward worker protections would have made his confirmation unlikely."

John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO, called Scalia's nomination a "slap in the face" to American workers. "Eugene Scalia's nomina-

tion faced intense and broad opposition in the United States Senate and from an array of worker advocates," he said.

The ILWU had lobbied the Senate and urged them to reject this anti-worker nomination. In fact, many members took advantage of www.ilwu.org to send a letter urging a "no" vote for Scalia to their Senators.

The Solicitor of Labor is an extremely important and influential position within the Department of Labor and is recognized as third in rank in the department behind only the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary. Not only is the Solicitor the "top lawyer" within the Department, but he oversees a nationwide staff of 500 attorneys who are responsible for enforcing the 180 laws within the Department's jurisdiction as well as defending the Department in litigation against it. The Solicitor is directly involved in providing advice and guidance on virtually every policy, legislative, regulatory and enforcement initiative of the Department and its

John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO, called Scalia's nomination a "slap in the face" to American workers.

various agencies. Finally, unlike other agencies, the Solicitor of Labor has a great deal of direct litigation authority and discretion, and can bring cases and file appeals without first obtaining the approval of the Department of Justice.

Otto Reich's nomination was blocked in committee because of objections raised by Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CN), Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee. Reich is one of several Iran-Contra figures from the Reagan administration being recycled

back into duty under Bush. He is a Cuban American who the Comptroller General of the U.S. found had engaged in public diplomacy efforts that were "prohibited, covert propaganda activities," "beyond the range of acceptable agency public information activities...." The Comptroller General also concluded that Mr. Reich's office had violated "a restriction on the State Department's annual appropriations prohibiting the use of federal funds for publicity

or propaganda purposes not authorized by Congress."

Reich has also acted as a lobbyist for businesses with strong interests in Latin American policy. Democrats charged that Reich's nomination was little more than a payback to the Cuban American community of Florida who helped elect Bush.

Under the rules governing recess appointments, both men will keep their jobs until the Senate adjourns this year. Unless they are appointed with the concurrence of the Senate's majority leader, recess appointees typically stand little chance of ultimately winning Senate confirmation. Daschle was quoted as calling the Bush decision to make the appointments "regrettable."

If that wasn't bad enough, President Bush once again avoided the Senate confirmation process by using recess appointments to place two stridently anti-worker lawyers on the National Labor Relations Board on Jan. 22. Bush's choice of Michael J. Bartlett, director of labor law policy at the United States Chamber of Commerce, and William B. Cowen, principle attorney for Institutional Labor Advisors LLC, signal an unwillingness to address the concerns of working men and women.

Legislative agenda—continued from page 6

hear that claptrap, they need results. There is no compassion for America's workers in ramming through huge tax cuts for wealthy individuals and corporations. This is money that should be spent on health care and jobs programs for workers. There is no compassion for America's workers in ramming fast track through Congress so that good jobs flee the country in search of low-paid, exploited workers. There is no compassion in refusing to raise the minimum wage for struggling workers. And there is no compassion in refusing to extend unemployment

benefits and health care for the millions of laid off workers during this severe recession. American workers need their fair share of the wealth of this country.

Finally, the House of Representatives will consider seaport security legislation. The Senate passed a version in December which does impose criminal background checks on some ILWU members. It would require the Secretary of Transportation to require the designation of controlled access areas in the Maritime Facility Security Plan for each

waterfront facility and other covered entities, and require ports to limit access to security-sensitive information, such as passenger and cargo manifests. It allows the Secretary of Transportation to access FBI, fingerprint, and other crime data bases to conduct background investigations on port workers and transmit the results to port authorities for other covered entities.

The Senate bill does require participation of longshore unions on the local port security committees where much of the implementation of

the law will take place. It is critical that active and vocal ILWU committee members participate at every single port where the ILWU represents members to advocate for workers. Meanwhile, we will need your help in the House of Representatives to pass legislation that enhances security through a partnership with workers rather than legislation that looks upon workers as suspect at the outset. Articles on seaport security legislation will follow in future *Dispatcher* and *Waterfront Worker* publications.

Longshore Caucus—continued from page 3

report on legislative issues affecting the Division, especially the Maritime Security Act that has been so much of the union's political focus. The Coast Legislative Action Committee also reported on its activities, done in conjunction with McLaughlin's office, and on the need to continue the Division's presence in the halls of Congress. At the committee's suggestion the Caucus passed a motion for a one-time voluntary \$50 assessment of members for its political action work.

The Education Committee reported on the success of its first seminar on the history of the union, the contract and the grievance and arbitration processes it held last spring. The committee plans to put on similar seminars in the future. At the committee's recommendation the Caucus voted to contribute \$25,000 to the International's education

program, the Leadership, Education And Development (LEAD) seminar.

The Budget Committee reported that the Divisions monetary affairs are very sound. Its general, emergency, fighting and legal funds are all in good shape.

Solidarity

As the negotiations approach, the Coast Committee has been lining up support in case things don't go smoothly. The recent solidarity agreement with the Teamsters and the East and Gulf Coast International Longshoremen's Association has brought together the three most powerful unions in the country's transportation industry. The Teamster Port Division Director George Cashman, along with three Teamster West Coast International Vice Presidents, visited the Caucus to pledge their support for the ILWU in

its negotiations.

Rick Newlyn from the Maritime Union of Australia, which represents both that country's seafarers and longshore workers (or wharfies as they are called there), stopped by to once again thank the ILWU for its international solidarity when he and his mates were locked out and in a battle for the survival of their union almost four years ago. He offered his union's solidarity should it be needed in the upcoming bargaining.

"If there is a breakdown in negotiations, the MUA will show its support," Newlyn said. "We haven't forgotten and we never will."

Further shoring up international solidarity, the delegates voted to officially join the International Dockworkers Council (IDC), many of whose members attended the International Dockers Solidarity Conference the ILWU hosted in

Southern California last summer. The Coast Committee will also attend the IDC's next international conference in Charleston, South Carolina in early March.

The negotiating committee

The delegates wrapped up their deliberations by selecting the members of the Negotiating Committee from among their ranks, putting their trust in some of the wisest longshore veterans in the union. Besides the four Coast Committee officers, the union representatives will be: John Tousseau (Local 63), Joe Cortez (Local 13), Henry Graham (Local 10), Norm Parks (Local 8), Tony DePaul (Local 23), Larry Hansen (Local 19), Glen Anderson (Local 52), Rich Austin (Local 32), Larry Carleton (Local 46) and John Rapp (Local 4).

In memory of Oahu Division's Benito "Benny" Apostadiro

HONOLULU—Former Oahu business agent Benito "Benny" Apostadiro passed away on January 22, 2002, at the age of 76. Benny Apostadiro became a member of the ILWU when he got a job at the Ewa Plantation in 1954. Like almost all new sugar workers, Benny's first job was on the poison gang, a crew that walked through the sugar fields and sprayed chemical to control the weeds.

From the very beginning, Benny was active in the union, serving as the union steward for his gang from 1954 to 1958. Benny proved to be an exceptional leader, and by 1959 he was elected to the top union position as unit chairman at the Ewa Plantation. Benny also advanced within the company, and in 1960, he entered the trades progression program to be trained as a machinists. He completed the program and was certified

as a machinist in 1969.

A year later, in 1970, Benny was elected as an ILWU Oahu Division Business Agent and left his job at the Ewa Plantation to begin serving full-time in the union. For the next 21 years, Benny served as an ILWU business agent until his retirement in 1991.

Even with all the time and demands required of a business agent, Benny found time to father and raise 15 children, and engage in his favorite hobby—raising and training chickens.

Benny was also active in the Oahu Division Political Action Committee, and found a large family had its advantages. When it came time to walk house-to-house in support of ILWU endorsed candidates, Benny often arrived with a large crew of "volunteers"—his many children and grandchildren.

Benny Apostadiro had one of the most important skills every ILWU leader needs, a sense of humor. When times were tough or when meetings became heated, Benny was always ready with a joke to lift up your spirits. But Benny could also be counted on to speak up for basic union principles and point out the best solution to the problems.

Benny's daughter, Charlene Richardson, reflected on Benny's life at a memorial service on February 6, 2002, that packed the Mililani Mortuary Mauka Chapel and overflowed to the courtyard outside.

Charlene recounted the words of the doctor who attended Benny during his final days. The doctor had never seen so much support and love for one man. "Who was he? What kind of work did he do?" asked the doctor. Charlene explained that Benny was a loving man, generous



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and humorous, who taught them to help those who can't help themselves, to stand up for human rights and justice, to be humble, and to know your roots. "Everything he did was from his heart," she said.

We gain political power through our union—continued from page 2

Action Committee that interviews these candidates, keeps track of their records, and make recommendations on who would be best to support. This is why members are urged to vote for union endorsed candidates—to make our votes count and to elect candidates who will work in the best interest of working families.

The next most important time and place to use **organized pressure** is during the Legislative Session. Once these people are elected, they have the power to make laws that can

improve our lives and standard of living. Or they can just as easily pass laws that cut benefits and take away needed government services and programs. This is where business and other special interest groups spend a lot of time and money. They have their lawyers study the law and introduce legisla-

tion that suits their interests. They give testimony at hearings. They hire professional lobbyist to make the rounds and talk to legislators. And they reward their friends by making contributions to their campaign funds. Business groups are well organized—and they make sure that every legislator knows exactly what business wants.

On the other hand, individual workers and unorganized voters are at the biggest disadvantage during the Legislative Session. Individual workers don't have the time and resources to draft laws, give testimony at hearings, talk to elected

officials, and move bills through the legislative process. But Union Political Action gives working people the power and resources to do all of this.

Every year, the ILWU puts together a Legislative Program that tells politicians what working people want. Our Legislative Program now has 101 items that range from controlling the cost of prescription drugs to protecting the job security of workers when a company changes ownership.

We don't leave these politicians to their own designs. We tell them these are the programs and issues important to us. We ask them to introduce bills. And we tell them to vote against bills that are no good. Union Political Action gives workers the power to influence the legislative process.

Finally, **organized** political pressure must be used to reward our friends and punish our enemies. This is where we need to prove that the union endorsement means something. This is where our Political Action Committees need to bring out members and pensioners to support the re-election of our friends in the Legislature. This is where we do signwaving, go house to house, and talk to other members about the need to organize their political power through the union. This is where we need to prove our members **are** organized by turning out the vote for union endorsed candidates.

We don't leave these politicians to their own designs. We tell them these are the programs and issues important to us. We ask them to introduce bills. And we tell them to vote against bills that are no good. Union Political Action gives workers the power to influence the legislative process.

Finally, **organized** political

"We win a contract fight and we improve conditions for a few hundred workers and their families. We pass a good piece of legislation and it affects the lives of hundreds of thousands of people for many generations."

If we can't deliver the votes, then the Union has no political clout and politicians can ignore the Union's program. Politicians will see our talk about strength and unity is just empty talk.

On the other hand, if the union can deliver the votes at election time, then we show the politicians that union members are united and are organized. This is political solidarity and it is the source of union political power.

Economic and Political Power go together

"The union makes us strong"—is true on the job and in politics. Our members need to understand that economic and political power go hand in hand. This is where we need your help—to get this message to the members in your units.

As you all know, this is a very important political year, because reapportionment has put all seats up for election. We have not yet made an endorsement, but the governor's race will probably be the most critical.

We need you to help organize political action committees in every unit. We need you to help register more members and their family members to vote. And while it is still too early to talk about supporting particular candidates, we can start educating our members today about the need to be politically organized

through the union.

We win a contract fight and we improve conditions for a few hundred workers and their families. We pass a good piece of legislation and it affects the lives of hundreds of thousands of people for many generations.

There are many, many examples of how Union Political Action made it possible to organize the votes of individual union members into a powerful force. There are many, many examples of how this political force was used to bring tremendous benefit to working families. A state-wide school system that spread out the funds to ensure that neighbor island kids, especially in areas like Ka'u or Hawi, had access to free, public education. Loans that kept the sugar industry in business a little longer, then extended unemployment benefits for sugar workers who lost their jobs. Land use and zoning codes to protect our environment, shore lines, and visitor industry. Increases in benefits paid to injured workers under workers compensation, extended unemployment insurance, an increase in the minimum wage. The list goes on and on.

We need to remind our members that some of the greatest advancements and contributions made for working families by the ILWU was when we combined the political and economic struggle.