

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



# The RUSTY HOOK

Seattle ILWU



PACIFIC COAST PENSIONER'S ASSOCIATION

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DICK MOORK

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JULY-AUGUST 1994

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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The Annual Bloody Thursday Memorial Picnic will be held in Lincoln Park at Stove 5 (North end of the park) on Tuesday, July 5. It will be potluck. Bring your family and enjoy yourself!!!

### THOSE WHO SET THE TABLE (V)

By Del Castle

#### WAINO (WAYNE) MOISIO

Another of our real stalwart veterans of '34 is Waino (Wayne) Moisio now all of 87 years old. According to Wayne, his entire education was gained in the "School of Hard Knocks". All of it on the Seattle waterfront which was his only place of employment.

During the '34 strike, Moisio did picket duty all over the Seattle waterfront without any incident that he remembers. (Knowing Wayne, this is difficult to visualize).

Despite the fact that the vast majority of longshoremen supported the strike, at that time, Moisio wasn't too sure they could prevail. However, "having nothing to lose but their shackles", he and the rest of his fellow workers fought the good fight and were well satisfied with the settlement.

His recollection is that there was almost full support for the '34 strike and the ensuing strikes in '36, '46 and '48.

As most of the '34 vets, Moisio says that the strike was not too hard on him or his family. (This idea is surely due to fact that they had no place else to go but up.) Wayne's wife, Esther, was a charter member of the Women's Auxiliary which was responsible for keeping the striker's morale up. They 'manned' the soup kitchen that kept the family in "beans". [Those 'beans' probably were responsible for the success of the struggle]

Wayne is hopeful about the future of the ILWU, but he sees signs of erosion in some of the actions of the active membership.. In his opinion a strong educational program, either from the ILWU or from the labor movement as a whole will be required for the survival of the union and the trade union movement in our country.

Wayne, when he has time, still comes to the hall and reminisces with his brothers and sisters.

JULY MEMBERSHIP MEETING ----- JULY 11

On July 28 celebration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies will be held at the Faculty Club on the University of Washington Campus. The hours will be 4:30 pm to 7 pm. All ILWU members, their families and friends are invited. There will be food, drink and entertainment. The proceedings will be jointly sponsored by all Puget Sound Locals, pension clubs and the UofW Harry Bridges School in Labor Studies.

AUGUST MEMBERSHIP MEETING ----- AUGUST 1

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### THE HARRY BRIDGES CHAIR

Del Castle, Recording Secretary, has been accepted by the University of Washington School in Labor Studies to enter and study for his Masters Degree. To our knowledge, he is the first ILWU member accepted for a post-graduate course through the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies.

Brother Castle, we wish you the best. Our club can use all the school 'larnin' it can get.

Nice going, Del.

[POSTSCRIPT: Upon learning that he was accepted and could go back to school, Brother Castle thought that he was, once again, of school age. He started climbing trees, fell out of one and broke three ribs. One can only assume that this will be considered as part of his "re-education".]

**LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES - by Dick Moork**

Labor Party Advocates which, because of the total Clinton support of NAFTA, has a rapidly growing number of members. They have been canvassing and laying the groundwork for the formation of a labor party in the United States for three years.

On May 24, Tony Mazzocchi, co-founder of the organization, spoke at the Labor Temple in Seattle. The meeting was attended by at least 150 trade unionists and friends.

All of us can recall our experiences of the past, vis-a-vis a labor party. About two weeks before and after every national election, groups of workers would gather and agree that "we oughta have a Labor Party". This would then be forgotten until the next national election in four years, during which time labor has been betrayed by their 'friends' over and over again. This is not the case with LPA.

This group of dedicated trade unionists and disenfranchised major party members is doing their homework. They are building a grass-roots organization from the ground up. They started very modestly by saying that, first, they would canvass the country to see if there was a legitimate demand for a Third Party. After a couple of years of extensive scientific polling, they found that there definitely was a demand for a Third Party and that the ultra-right wing (The Pat Robertsons and Co.) had discovered this fact and that they were already busy organizing. They found that the working class of the country was searching for solutions and that, if the labor movement could not come up with answers, those in the right wing had answers that would be totally unacceptable, but forced down our throats by circumstance. Remember Adolf Hitler, a self-styled man of the people)

Mazzocchi pointed out that, although labor already knows the broad plan was, the Clinton administration recently admitted publicly that their plan to maintain a stable economy was to impose high interest rates and a relatively high level of permanent unemployment. Of course, this means that the total burden of sacrifice will be put on the working class.

**MANAGED CARE**

Historically, American medicine has been conducted with the most meticulous record keeping, assuring that no matter which doctor or nurse treated you, one could be sure that there would be a record of the treatment, the prescription dosage and the health care provider who prescribed that treatment. Everybody involved was on your recorded personal chart. Such is not the case anymore. In large Health Management Organizations (HMO) the administration has a staff of "reviewers" who have the power to change the primary doctor's prescribed treatment. (Similar drugs may have a great disparity in price and, also, great disparity in effectiveness). Reviewers, after reading the patient's file, invariably veto the more costly drug and tells the primary doctor to change the prescription to the less costly one. All of this

Mazzocchi stated further that, until a viable organization is built, it would be foolhardy to even consider running candidates for office. At present, the main focus is to try to have an effect on the political dialogue of our beloved country. As of now, labor is completely shut out of the debate. Labor's issues are not even on the political agenda. He pointed out that this is not unique. Prior to the 30s, until labor had the right to organize, things were very similar. However, even though labor did not have a party, their organization, after the Wagner Act was passed, built a movement that moved us into the Twentieth Century, with the passage of Social Security, unemployment compensation, wage-hour laws, etc. This was all done without having a party and running candidates. The civil rights movement of the 50s, 60s and 70s was another case of a movement without candidates for electoral office that changed the course of history by the sheer force of their political power.

However, things have changed today. Money controls both parties and the money lies on the other side of the fence. There can be no question that both parties are marching to the same set of orders. Because of the fact that there are still some Democrats who have a social conscience (possibly a very few Republicans) there is a modicum of difference in regards domestic policy, but it is only a cosmetic difference. Just look at the NAFTA disaster and the fact that, publicly, Clinton has yet to utter the phrase, "Organized Labor". This fact is no accident. His failure, thus far (this is written in late May), to offer leadership for passage of S. 55 (the striker replacement bill) is indication enough that his sympathies do not lie with labor. My God, he opened the world's largest and richest candy store (an estimated \$50 billion for us taxpayers to foot) to insure the passage of NAFTA --- and that was diametrically opposed to labor's wishes.

Labor has to reorganize politically. We don't necessarily have to put candidates forward at this time, but we do have to form a movement wherein we can move politicians to understand that we, the producers of the wealth, will have to be dealt with..

without the reviewer so much as seeing the patient. In addition, none of the reviewers decisions are part of the patients record. This has become a routine practice in HMOs.

Under these circumstances, how can anyone say that managed care furnishes quality care and consumer choice of doctors? These travesties completely nullify the doctor-patient relationship, leaving the patient at the mercy of a total stranger who has never met, much less seen the patient.

Write or call your congressperson and the White House, telling them that you will settle for nothing less than single-payer (H.R. 1200, Jim McDermott's bill) which provides for choice of doctor and is more cost-effective.

### THE HOGS ARE BACK

(Actually, they never left.)

If anyone is under the delusion that we are going to get decent, universal health care reform without a real fight, they had better come to the party. Even Clinton's "managed competition", which is near the bottom of the scale of acceptability is being attacked by the special interests. Of course, this was entirely predictable. Any time you show the hogs any weakness, you are going to pay the price. Clinton thought that he could water down health care reform and make it acceptable to the hogs. Baloney! Poll after poll has indicated that the American people prefer a single-payer system in a much greater [2 to 1] percentage than any of the alternatives (if they can be called that) which may have risen out of the primordial ooze. In a democracy, the people (demos) are supposed to run things. However, in the late Twentieth Century, the dictionary has been rewritten to read that money runs things.

According to D.C.-based Citizen Action, a federation of 32 grassroots state organizations, more than \$8.3 million flowed from health care and insurance industry coffers into the campaign coffers of members of Congress in 1992. When the final vote comes down, if single-payer is still under consideration and loses, as that famous investigator's motto says, "Follow the money."

### JIM HIGHTOWER

"Jim Hightower says his new nationally syndicated radio call-in show will broadcast on behalf of the grass roots "Powers-That-~~OU~~HT-To-Be." Hightower is known for his pro union, pro-worker commentary, spiced with humorous barbs. The show debated May 14-15 on the ABC Radio Network. It runs every Saturday and Sunday for three hours starting 1:00 pm Eastern time (and simultaneously in other time zones."

(Reprinted from Labor Notes)

Hightower is the irreverent but accurate commentator who said, "George Bush was born on third base and thinks he hit a triple."

If you read your May Dispatcher, you also saw another quote — "Let's keep our factories and jobs here and move our corporate headquarters to Mexico, Korea or any where else we can get some reasonably priced chief executives."

Just those two statements should be ample reason to entice any red-blooded worker to tune in. It sure as hell beats Rush Limbaugh or Pat Buchanan.

There remains only one problem. Hightower is carried on over 100 ABC affiliate stations, however, KOMO, the local ABC radio affiliate, has not seen clear to broadcast Hightower's excellent program.

KOMO Radio can be reached at (206) 443-4010. Let them know how you feel.

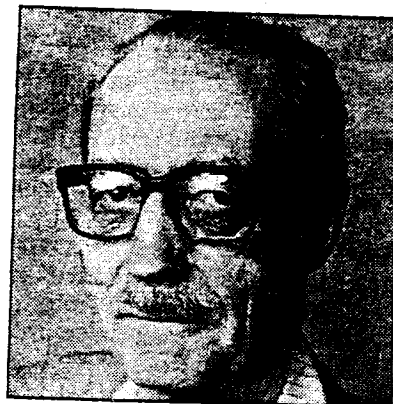
### HEALTH CARE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The American Association of Retired Persons and the Urban Institute have just completed a study and the results show that older Americans spent an average of \$2800 in out-of-pocket health care costs in 1994. This is more than twice the amount expended in 1987 — just seven years ago. If this isn't reason for real health care reform, instead of one that would be administered by the same people who caused this astronomical rise in costs — if this isn't cause for the American people to rise up in outrage — if the American people, particularly older Americans like us, don't rise up and demand a single-payer system, then we deserve what we get.

### ELECTRONIC SUPERHIGHWAY by Dick Moork

As one of the first local manifestations of the much heralded "electronic superhighway", the Seattle Times, along with two Public Radio Stations, initiated a program called "Front Porch Forum". Our esteemed staff member, Art Mink, contributed an excellent article on the shorter work day (or week) in the initial publication of the project. Despite the self-serving editing that inevitably occurs in the commercial press, Brother Mink got the point across that Americans no longer work to live, but that we have regressed to a society that lives to work.

Art did an excellent job in getting this point across — my only question is what were his motives in submitting a photo (below) from his high school annual to the Times for publication? Or, is it an airbrush touch-up?



Arthur Mink  
Seattle

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### FINAL DISPATCH

- Ed Anderson ----- Local 19
- Carl Coleman ----- " " 19
- Martin Greget ----- " " 19
- Tom Scibor ----- " " 19
- Carl Lee ----- Local 19
- Cecil "Dutch" Tyseling " " 19

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### DEREGULATION

There is a very good reason for government regulation of commerce and business. That reason is the protection of the extremely powerless consumer, whose life depends on consumption, from the eminently powerful corporations whose only motive is profit — profit thru any means. Without any pesky government getting in the way. Without governmental regulation, the average consumer is absolutely helpless against the hogs of commerce.

During the Reagan-Bush dynasty, the greatest upward transfer of wealth in world history occurred, creating the homeless and unemployed of today. Most of this phenomenon was due to deregulation or ignoring the regulations that existed, leaving the consumer powerless before the greed of big business.. Deregulation, or what Reagan-Bush lovingly portrayed as "getting the government off our backs", actually meant getting the government off the hogs backs, leaving them completely free to operate virtually unrestricted and without rules so that they could more efficiently exploit the consumer. These exact same hogs, during the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, were called "Robber Barons" and they had books written about their exploits of exploitation. Their excesses were so great that government regulations were put in place. Now, in this day of the electronic information superhigh way in operation and the new orgy of deregulation continuing, the 19<sup>th</sup> Century "Robber Barons" will look like petty thieves in comparison. In this writer's opinion, there is nothing on the corporate agenda more important than deregulation. Corporate life blood is measured, not in pints, but in profits. The manner in which these profit are accrued is of no consequence. If the public welfare gets in the way of these profits, out with the public welfare!

For the past twenty years, Americans have been routinely subjected to a litany of the mythical evils of governmental regulation. They have been told that regulation stifles the spirit of the "free market"; That it kills ambition. The truth is that the only ambition that regulation stifles is the ambition to exploit one's fellow citizens. The virus of deregulation is creeping into every facet of our everyday life. As I write, an event is occurring that illustrates how insidious the issue of deregulation has become — how much the corporate agenda is heeded. Bill Clinton has announced his nomination to a vacancy on the Supreme Court. The nominee is Stephen Breyer and it is difficult to find anyone, Republican or Democrat who does not avidly endorse the nomination. However, Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, author of S. 55, the striker replacement bill, a long time friend of Labor and veteran of the Senate Judiciary Committee has some reservations. He says that he sees Breyer as "someone who consistently favored corporate interests and a weakening of government regulations." In its June 6 edition, The Nation said "Breyer comes across as a high-powered policy wonk. As chief counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee in the late 1970s his great achieve-

ment was transport deregulation—hardly an unqualified success." Breyer has written that government regulation of business should be used only as a weapon of last resort, and that environmental and workplace safety regulation (my emphasis) is irrationally based. By the time you read this (July), Breyer will almost surely have been long ago confirmed. Nonetheless it does indicate that the working class in America, when going to the polls, faces a Hobson's Choice (No choice at all).

Let us now look at the record of the supposedly great benefits we realize from deregulation, beginning with R. Nixon's privatizing of the Postal Service in 1971.

Prior to its 1971 privatization, the Post Office had cabinet status. Nixon kicked the Postmaster General off the cabinet. Prior to 1971, UPS and all of the then existing package delivery companies were limited mostly to local deliveries. In fact, UPS was about the only private game in town. The Post Office handled the bulk of the high revenue producing delivery of parcels. The Postal Service was relatively self sustaining and the private local delivery companies were making a living. In addition, junk mail was at a minimum. In fact, there was no such common term as "junk mail" in use.

Today, almost all of the package delivery is done by private business and it is done at enormous profit on an international basis with fleets of 747s and truck fleets in most countries. The Postal Service is relegated to delivering junk mail and if we want a personal letter delivered, it is going to cost us, not 29¢, but 35¢ in a short time. In effect, the public is subsidizing the giant private package delivery companies while, at the same time, subsidizing those who befoul our mail boxes with junk mail. This is the direct result of the dereg. Although the statistics are not available, it is surely true that, prior to 'privatization', the Postal Service was subsidized to whatever extent by the public. However, what is preferable, the subsidizing of a public service by the public, or the subsidizing of a private profit making institution by the public?

The deregulation of the airlines is a similar story. Does anyone remember the era prior to airline deregulation, when there was a little order and dependability in air travel? When all airline personnel were members of trade unions, when there wasn't daily chaos connected with air travel? The absence of these conditions is also a direct result of deregulation.

However, both of these examples pale before the fact of deregulation of the trucking industry. (both airlines and trucking were deregulated at the above mentioned transportation deregulation of the late '70s). Most of us can remember the day when there was no such thing as a nonunion truck on a Seattle dock. Today, a Teamster's Union driver is a rarity on the docks. The fact that these gyppos can come on the docks and public roads unimpeded has had a profoundly corrosive effect on organized labor as a whole and it has a profound effect on the safety of travel on the nation's highways. [My wife and I recently met an owner operator on Harbor Island

who was complaining that he had been forced to drive straight through from Texas. He had made the trip by filling himself with 'Bennies'. He was doing this so that he "could be his own boss." In truth, he still had another boss and a very unforgiving one -- the bank. He was working under these conditions so he could meet the loan on his truck, pay his insurance for the truck and cargo and so that he could afford maintenance on the truck. The company under whose banner he formerly drove was relieved of all of these responsibilities so that they could concentrate on making enormous profits. Be assured that the owner operator was not even thinking about profits -- he would be lucky to break even. And we are driving on the same highways with him.

Of course the granddaddy of all deregs was the S&L which, by the time it is paid for, will have cost the public at least \$1 trillion. It is a case where we, the public, underwrote billions in bad loans and, when the loans defaulted, and confiscated property was put at auction, it was sold (many times to former S&L operators who had already cost us hundreds of millions) for cents on the dollar.

Notwithstanding the hysterical campaign for deregulation that is being financed by the hogs, government regulations are meant to be, and almost without exception are, a defense against those selfsame hogs.

Recently, in the Pacific Northwest, we had a deadly outbreak of E-coli, a bacteria from meat products that have been improperly handled. ~~It cost the lives of several~~ ~~children and untold suffering of many more.~~ E-coli can be prevented by proper handling and correct inspection of the meat, from the time of slaughter till it is served. By law, inspection of meat falls directly upon

#### SINGLE-PAYER MADE SIMPLE

Robert Wages, President of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW) wrote the following letter which was printed in In These Times. It is well worth reprinting and reading.

"Our union endorsed the single-payer approach to national health care in 1989 because of these key features, which none of the other approaches have: Single-payer is fair. It's simple. It's universal. And it's comprehensive.

"The American people understand that, too. That's why poll after poll show they favor the single-payer solution. And that's why more than a million people in California signed up to put a single-payer initiative on the ballot.

"Single-payer just makes the most sense -- period. With it, we all know what we will get: coverage forever for everyone,. Poor, rich and in-between; employed or unemployed; sick or healthy. And we know that everything will be covered: prescription drugs, pre-natal to long term care, checkups, preventive care, catastrophic care.

"We also know who our health care providers will be, because it's our choice: our own doctors, hospitals specialists. No co-payments, no deductibles, no hassle.

the shoulders of the federal government. Because of budget cuts during Reagan-Bush, the number of federal inspectors was cut drastically. It became a physical impossibility for the smaller number of inspectors to properly do their job. The packing plants and other meat handlers were actually (and to my knowledge still are) self-inspecting under the "honor system". (We all know what happens to honor when profits are involved.) The tragic result was the outbreak of E-coli.

Although we know that regulations that do not seem to make sense are in existence, (I, personally cannot think of one at this time), we also know, that every time something is deregulated, it is going to cost the working men and women of America. Likewise, the more people that we elect from both major parties who are sympathetic to the corporate agenda, such as NAFTA, the more deregulation we will see -- the disparity between the rich and poor will increase -- the more outrages such as the E-coli outbreak we'll see -- all at the same rate as the disappearance of our democratic traditions.

Currently, there is a legislative assault on the Fair Labor Standards Act ( a regulatory piece of legislation which guarantees that government contracts will not be let on the basis of substandard wages and conditions). It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out how this would affect organized labor. However, it fits perfectly into the deregulatory mindset of those trade

~~union haters.~~  
We have to demand that our government, which was at one time supposed to be "of the people, by the people and for the people", be wrested from the corporate hogs and returned to us, the people. ----- Dick Moork

"Finally, we know what we'll pay, and for 75 percent of us it'll be less than we pay now. But we won't be paying it to the 1,500 private insurance companies who rake in billions of dollars in profits from health insurance premiums and waste billions more in the process. By eliminating the premiums, the co-payments, deductibles and items the insurance companies don't cover, we'll end up with more care, better care and less expensive care.

"So why all the "confusion"? That answer's simple, too. The alternative proposals are complicated and complex because they attempt to hide the fact that they're designed to keep the insurance industry in control, so that the biggest insurance companies, drug companies and others can keep profiting from our \$1 trillion-a-year health care system.

"Today the government-funded single-payer solution -- fair, simple, universal, comprehensive -- is right where it should have been all along: squarely in the middle of the debate. The American people aren't stupid. They understand it because it's right. And they know it will work."

Robert Wages  
(Frankly, I couldn't have said it better myself.)  
Dick Moork

THOSE WHO SET THE TABLE (IV)

by Del Castle  
DEWEY DUGGAN

In this continuing tribute to our founding brothers, I have interviewed Brother Dewey Duggan, veteran of the '34 strike.

Dewey, one of our most venerable veterans turned 96 this April. He started working, fresh out of high school in a series of odd jobs. He started working for the Port of Seattle, which had its own hiring hall at that time, in 1923.

In the 1934 strike, Dewey did all of his picket duty at old Ames Terminal on West Waterway. He escaped all of the tear gassing and bludgeoning that took place at such places as Smith Cove.

In Dewey's memory, there was virtually unanimous support for the strike. Because of his job at the Port, he ran into practically none of the ensuing 'wildcat' walk-outs that were caused by the west coast employer's efforts to break the newly found strong union. Although he wasn't involved, he knows that the majority of the union members supported these actions.

Today Dewey, who retired in May 1963, recalls that he and his fellow workers were satisfied with the terms of the 1934 settlement -- recognition of the union, a wage increase and, above all the union's joint control of the hiring hall. He says that he and his family were able to weather the strike in spite the lack of a paycheck.

Brother Duggan feels the ILWU is strong enough to guarantee its future. He thinks that both the membership and the employers are satisfied with labor relations as they are. He says he is not worried about the present membership sticking to the union. "They can only ask themselves, where else could I go?"

TWO "MUST READ" BOOKS --by FRED BERG

America, What Went Wrong?: & America, Who Really Pays the Taxes?, by Donald L. Bartlett & James B, Steele

Everybody knows there is something drastically wrong in our country and that our way of living is deteriorating in nearly every aspect--the hucksterism and hypocrisy in religious organizations, the continuing deterioration of our educational system, the difficulties involved in law enforcement and crime, the breakup of families--but most Americans tend to overlook a primary source of what has gone bad--the systematic looting of our pockets due to the corruption and misuse of the nation's political and economic institutions.

America, What Went Wrong? analyzes the root of the country's economic problems and, in so doing, tells how corporate America is getting rich from the exploitation of working people. For instance, the book has a chapter called "The Disappearing Pensions". Among other things, it explains how Congress has enacted laws enabling employers to dip into pension funds--the only requisite being that they file notice stating there are adequate funds left. This allowed Exxon, for one, to bilk its employees out of 81% of their pension reserves. A good guess would be that this was one way they paid the bills (that they

didn't default on) for the great Alaskan oil spill. Other clauses in laws passed by Congress allow investment bankers to raid the funds and to force bankruptcy courts to pay off creditors before pensioners.

Another chapter is entitled "Playing Russian Roulette with Health Insurance". It states that during the Reagan years, among companies employing 100 or more people, workers covered by health insurance declined from 75% to 48% and family coverage decreased from 59% to 31%. Since that time, it is likely that coverage has kept going down. Notwithstanding this, during the same period, employee contributions to health care plans skyrocketed 178% for single coverage and 167% for families. This is to say nothing of the 40 million people, most of them workers, who have no health insurance at all, or the millions of others who are inadequately covered. For these people, who can depend only on luck to keep healthy, as the authors imply, the system is playing Russian Roulette with their lives. It also goes without saying that most of those deprived workers do not belong to strong and militant labor unions.

On June 8, in USA Today, the authors wrote a summary of their new book, America, Who Pays the Taxes? a Quote from the article: "If corporations paid income taxes at the same rate they did in the 1950s, the U.S. Treasury would collect an extra \$250 billion a year-- enough to pay the deficit."

They broach several other important facts in this short report. They say, for instance, that from 1971 to 1991, the combined income and social security tax bills paid by middle income families went up 329%. Millionaires, at the same time, enjoyed a total tax cut of 34%.

Another intriguing piece of information--If the 1953 internal revenue pattern were followed, we would have \$5386 for a tax exemption instead of the present \$2350. Were this tax exemption in place today, pensioners and the poor would have to pay very little income tax.

The above stated facts lead to a few observations noted by the authors. If the 35% of the tax dollar, which goes to service the interest on the federal debt were applied instead to health care and pension benefits, American citizens could receive the same social considerations that are taken for granted in almost all European nations

It is reasonable to assume that the bankers and financiers to whom we owe this debt want it to either increase or remain status quo. Certainly the interest we pay provides them enormous incomes. Moreover, whenever there is an impending stock market crash or other difficulties of an economic nature, they can trade their stock equities in for federal bonds. This country, now 205 years old, will just about have to go down before they could lose these government backed investments.

Hopefully, there is enough stated here to break ground for a few new thoughts. Fred Berg

WE WANT TO THANK THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS AND SISTERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RUSTY HOOK SUSTAINING FUND

(Not necessarily in the following order)

- Paul Buxton
- Harold Cashdollar
- Ed Hepakoski
- Jerry & Dorothy Lui
- Bert Neville
- David Olson
- Fred Redman
- Val Swope
- Cliff Vinje
- Dick & Gloria Nelson
- Harold Everett
- Ken & Alice Maurice
- Kay Anderson
- John Wold
- George White
- John Prong
- John & Emma Ehly
- Don Heeter
- Bob Dzutsoff
- Martin & Ruth Christensen
- (in memory of Carl Lee)
- Art & Lorraine Wallace
- (in memory of Carl Lee)

If anyone is omitted, they will surely be recognized in the next issue of this marvelous publication!

**MERLE KENNEY**

Our loyal, dedicated and sorely missed brother, Merle "Heater" Kenney, who passed away last September, bequeathed \$2000 to the Seattle Club. This selfless and thoughtful gesture is greatly appreciated.

When he was with us, Brother Kenney came to visit quite often. This, in spite of the fact that his last years were made more difficult by illness and the fact that he lived a good distance away in northern Snohomish County.

Brother Kenney was a true fellow worker and the legacy of his generosity will assure that he will be remembered by all who knew him and had the privilege of working with him.

THOSE WHO SET THE TABLE (VI)

By Del Castle

Elmer H. Johnson

The following is an unsolicited but much appreciated letter from Elmer Johnson, veteran of the '34 strike. In our judgment, it encompasses the spirit of those men who fought for and founded our union.

"Dear Brother Castle:

Due to the illness of my wife, I was unable to attend the luncheon of May 19<sup>th</sup> in Tacoma honoring the surviving members of the 1934 strike in the Puget Sound area. Carl Christenson presented me with the beautiful plaque the next day.

"Receiving the plaque brought back vivid memories of that day in May 1934. I was working as a casual at Pacific Steamship Co. that morning. I was a replacement on the sling of a gang member that didn't show. Shortly after we started work, we were alerted that the strike was on. Several of us casuals immediately went to the ILA hall and applied for membership in the union. As I recall, a group of Tacoma longshoremen arrived and provided the emphasis of getting some of the off ships and docks that had not yet observed the strike. In most cases, it didn't require much persuasion..

"Sometime later, the employer decided to load the ships at Pier 41, the American Mail Line pier. This was the area we concentrated on to prevent cargo and personnel from entering. Some rail cars got thru, but the union crew did everything to support the strikers.

"Employers were putting pressure on Mayor Charley Smith to remove the strikers. Finally, one day, tear gas was used and we were driven back to Elliott Avenue to escape the gas. That is why the mayor was called "House Charley"

"It wasn't long before we were back at our stations stopping scabs and cargo from entering. The employer didn't accomplish much.

"Thanks to President Roosevelt's Administration we won the hiring hall and many benefits that are still in effect. The victory was won with cooperation of seafaring unions as well as dockside and stevedore workers.

"I want to thank all Puget Sound local members, active and retired, who were responsible for honoring those of us still living who fought 60 years ago for what we thought was right for working people. It is a tribute to the present active membership who have taken on the responsibility to retain the solidarity that was established years ago.

"I can recall some of the members in our picket gang — Ernie Youngberg, Leo Gastano, 'Snouse' Johnson, big Erik Matson, and Wayne Moisis. (Wayne couldn't go to the Tacoma luncheon because of his wife's health.)

"Thanks again to all the Puget Sound brothers. I will cherish the plaque and when I'm gone, it will go to my grandson, Steve Berry, whose other grandfather was John Berry, a grainhandler and a member of the Tacoma local for many years. He retired many years ago and has left us.

Fraternally,  
Elmer H. Johnson"

**JULY 28, 1994 - HARRY'S 93<sup>RD</sup> BIRTHDAY**

On July 28, 1992, Harry Bridges 91<sup>ST</sup> birthday, the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies was dedicated at the home of UofW President, Ma Gerberding. This year, July 28, 1994 will be the second anniversary of this historic event.

A celebration of this event will be held at the Faculty Club on the University of Washington campus on July 28. All ILWU members, their families and friends are invited and welcome. It will be held from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Light snacks and drinks will be served and there will be a presentation. The invitation is extended to all members from Seattle, Everett, Walla Walla, Southern California, Northern California, Columbia River and even Puget Sound. The occasion will also include the passing of the baton of the Harry Bridges Chair from Professor David Olson to Professor Charles Bergquist. All of us will miss David Olson but we will welcome Chuck Bergquist, an eminent labor historian, scholar and educator, who has become a dear and respected friend in the past couple of years.

Professor Olson has assured us that though he will be gone as Dean of the School in Labor Studies but, as an active member of the PCPA, the Seattle ILWU Pension Club and Local 19, he will refuse to be forgotten.

Rates at the two closest hotels have been arranged. If you wish reservations they can be secured by calling

The Meany Hotel -- 1-800-648-6400

Single room -- \$69

Double room -- \$79

or

The University Inn -- 1-206-632-5055

Single Room -- \$64.80

Deluxe room? -- \$73.80



Seattle ILWU Pension Club  
3440 East Marginal Way So.  
Seattle, WA 98134

Arthur Mink  
169 Power Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98122