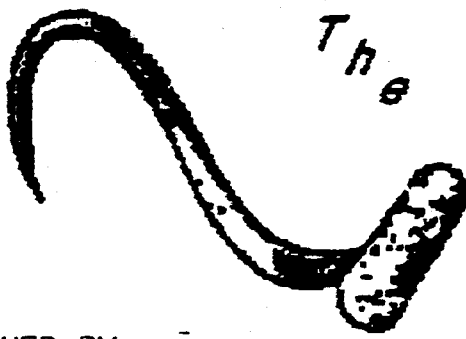


AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



The RUSTY HOOK

Seattle ILWU



PACIFIC COAST PENSIONER'S ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED BY
SEATTLE ILWU PENSION CLUB

3440 EAST MARGINAL WAY SO.
SEATTLE, WA 98134
(206) 343-0504

EDITORIAL STAFF

VOL. 2 No. 6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRED BERG
DEL CASTLE
ART MINK
DICK MOORK

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1994

November Meeting ----- Nov. 7

GENERAL ELECTION ----- Nov. 8

December Meeting ----- Dec. 5

FINAL DISPATCH

Lee Schutt ----- Local 98
Harry Casperson ----- Local 19
Lonnie Kendrick ----- Local 19
Terry Ebel ----- Local 19
Andy Vlasic ----- Local 19
Maurice Horton ----- Local 19
Al Hammond ----- Local 19

HOW FAR WILL THEY GO? DEPT.

(From The NATION Alert, Oct. 1994)

FACT: In Riverside CA, members of Phyllis Schaffly's Eagle Forum are lobbying for the removal of a book about Rosa Parks because it "questions authority".

VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8

VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

More of what is planned for the working class of the world.

In lieu of my "President's Report", the article on the following page is reprinted from the magazine "HUMAN QUEST" an independent journal of religious humanism under the auspices of The Churchman Associates, Inc. of St. Petersburg, FL. In their masthead, the editors/publishers proclaim that "it is edited in the conviction that religious journalism must provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas. and opinions; that religion is consonant with the most advanced revelations in every department of knowledge; that we are a fraternal world community; and that the moral and spiritual evolution of man is only at the beginning." Brothers and sister, in my opinion, those aren't bad principles by which to live

Please don't regard my statements and/or my opinions as espousals of any particular religion or the absence thereof. An unknown (to me) philosopher once said that, "The only trouble with Christianity is the Christians." Of course, he was referring to the horrible litany of bigotry and slaughter, in the name of almost all religions, that have been perpetrated down through the ages. Where the brotherhood of man has been preached, far too often intolerance and bigotry is practiced.

In reading the following essay by Bernard Forer, I realized that there was much food for thought in his

chronology and analysis of events that have occurred during the term of most of our lifetimes. Too often we look at history in mini-bites as though each occurrence were happening without any connection to others. As he points out, none of these events occurred in a vacuum. They are a natural sequence governed by the laws of politics and social intercourse that happen when certain factors are present or absent.

Because Mr. Forer could transmit this knowledge in a far better manner than I, it was my opinion that more people should have the benefit of his wisdom.

If anyone takes offense at the words, I take full responsibility for their printing in the 'Rusty Hook'. It is my philosophy that wrongs should be exposed to the public eye and ear, no matter what the source. Poking one's head in the sand never solved any problem. If my government is responsible for righting social wrongs and supporting democratic ideals, I feel that I can bask in the collective pride of all of my fellow citizens. However, if my government commits wrongs, I share the shame and responsibility with all other taxpayers. It is not pleasant to live with a guilty conscience, even if it is collective.

Please read Mr. Forer's article with an open mind and consider all of the facts that he sets forth.

Dick Moork

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

By BERNARD FORER

BY NOW, the multinational corporations are riding high. Labor movements on a world scale have been subdued. Within our own nation, attorneys have made their fortunes by advising CEOs on various anti-union maneuvers, not to mention those who have reached Congress and thereby gained legislative powers. Civil wars and ethnic struggles have engulfed the capitalist world, but the sale of arms goes undiminished. Joblessness has become an epidemic in one nation after the other, with corresponding increases in suffering, crime, and violence of many types.

At the same time, we have had the approval of such measures as GATT and NAFTA by governments of industrialized countries. These agreements are calculated to remove the multinationals from the control of the individual legislatures, thereby giving them a free hand to ignore environmental standards, wage laws, and other provisions calculated to protect the health and safety of workers. Media propaganda has been used to convince the people that so-called free trade comprises the answer to all our economic woes.

The U.S. has been an accomplice in the orchestrated campaign, under the guise of promoting democracy, of course.

The demise of the Soviet Union has intensified this trend of overriding the needs of working people. In addition, we have seen, in country after country, continuing scandals which involve political figures as well as their corporation partners in crime.

The present period is fraught with danger precisely because the financial elite is intent upon profits and the bottom-line, regardless of any fig-leaf of democracy. Greed is manifest. We are entering a crucial period in which a resurgence of neo-fascism may suit the blueprint of the makers and shakers of this modern world.

The first casualty in almost any war is the truth. Mussolini and Hitler came to power with the acquiescence and help from corporate powers. With the ascendancy of modern technology, the CEO clique feels that fewer and fewer workers are needed, so that only a relatively small group of technicians will be necessary for production. The rest can starve. Ob-

jectors will be handled by police forces and the army, plus the array of courts and prisons.

The kinship between capitalism and fascism is not a recent phenomenon. Past decades have seen U.S. incursions into Vietnam, Grenada, and Panama, not to mention C.I.A. shadow-armies parading everywhere from Nicaragua and Angola and Afghanistan. An article in *Covert Action Quarterly* has estimated a minimum of six million dead as a result of our sponsored conflicts. Nowhere have we produced the democracy that we were supposedly trying to achieve. Rather, we have ignited chaos and suffering. The toll upon civilians has been almost incredible. Our recent adventures in Somalia has been no better.

The last "justified" conflict that we have waged has been in World War II. Even there, I can see the hand of Big Business behind the decisions. The war was waged to prevent the ascendancy of Hitler over the continent of Europe, whereby he would have become the dominant capitalist power on the globe. The sellout at Munich by Chamberlain and his elite group had been an invitation to Hitler to march eastward and demolish the Soviet Union. Later, the capitalist elite had realized that it was impossible to make accommodation with the Nazis, and that they also would be swallowed up by the Hitlerites. Fascist appetites are never sated.

The U.S. Army's School of the Americas has used public funds to train leaders of death squads in Latin America. Our troubles in Haiti, for example, have been of our own making. At present writing, we have been making threats against North Korea, a country with which we refused to sign a peace treaty, and where we have positioned many thousands of troops nearby, in South Korea.

In this turbulent period, the worst victims are the children, as the recent Carnegie report has revealed. Crimes and violence have permeated the social structure of our country, so that even schools are not immune. Poverty and hopelessness rule too many families, not to mention the racism which underlies the political decisions that are being made. Let us not be mistaken: creation of an underclass has not been an aberration. We have the means and the technology to eliminate poverty, but that would mean the relinquishing of special privileges by the financial elite.

We have plenty of examples to cite.

The inconsistency — nay, the stupidity — of many policies emanating from Washington — has provoked trenchant remarks from our bright observers. During the Gulf War, one wit said that we would never have entered the conflict to restore the royal family in Kuwait if that country's chief export had been broccoli instead of oil! It was Jesse Jackson, I believe, who remarked that for the money we spend to keep a man in jail, we could send him to Yale.

Where is the money to come from? During the term of Gerald Ford, the maximum income-tax levy stood at sixty percent. The Bush-Reagan period kept lowering the rates for the top elite in our nation. John Young, of the *Waco Tribune-Herald*, has written a review of the book *Who Really Pays the Taxes?* by Donald Barlett and James Steele. In it, they state who the real welfare recipients are. "They wear pinstripes. They sail yachts and own race horses. They are millionaires and billionaires who hardly need the assist from the taxpayers." As Young points out, "Between 1986 and 1987 alone, Reagan's taxes were lopped in half."

But even the big shots are worried about the viability of the free-enterprise system, where so much of the proceeds are siphoned off by a small minority. For that reason, they have seized upon GATT as an answer, plus NAFTA. Incidentally, GATT has been given a new trademark, the World Trade Association, signed by representatives of over 100 nations in Morocco. They propose to lower tariffs and use other measures to keep the trickle-down idea alive. The documents totals over 26,000 pages. Almost all of it is designed to spell out commercial transactions, with only a few pages relating to safeguarding the environment. NAFTA was passed by one vote. Already the free-trade zone along the Rio Grande has become a cesspool, since the government of Mexico has been controlled by a corrupt one-party cabal for many decades.

What I fear is that the American public, overwhelmed by the crime and violence that seem epidemic, may succumb to the sort of dictatorship tactics used in Singapore. Then, friends and neighbors, we shall be living in a police state.

Call it what you sill, fascism will have been restored. ★

Mr. Forer is a retired newspaperman/teacher who cares too much for this country's welfare to forego incisive comment, as this article testifies. He is a Contributing Editor to this magazine.

27th PCPA CONVENTION

114 PCPA members attended the 27th annual convention in Redding, CA in mid-September. The executive board met on Sept. 11 and the membership met in convention on Sept 12-13-14. It was a fruitful and productive convention, giving life to 10 resolutions, one constitutional amendment and a change in the bylaws pertaining to the payment per capita. The resolutions ranged from #1, support for the Workplace Democracy Act, to #10, a resolution in support of the defeat of GATT (General Agreement on Tariff & Trade). The constitutional amendment was in Article IV, Section 1. The change will read, in an insertion between the second and third sentences: "At any annual convention where no delegate accepts the nomination for any one of the four titled offices, under this constitutional provision, then in such an event, an exception may be made at that convention only, for the nomination and election to a titled office of more than one member from the same group." The change in the bylaws pertaining to per capita is meant to attract members from our brothers and sisters on Warehouse and other divisions of the ILWU. There is strength in numbers.

There were two amendments to the By-Laws;

- 1) Resolutions to be brought before the convention shall be presented to the Sec'ty-Trea.by 12 noon the first day of the convention.
- 2) The convention shall elect four members to the Harry Bridges Institute Board of Directors, one to act as Vice-Pres. There shall be one Director elected from each area, Wash/Puget Sound, Oregon/Columbia River, Northern Calif.

VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8

CRIME AS A POLITICAL TOOL.

One can hardly read a newspaper, listen to the radio or watch television without constantly being bombarded with details about the latest ghastly crime. This column is not meant to minimize crime, but to put the reporting of crime and the legislative reaction to this reporting into perspective. The media and politicians never mention the causes of most street crime. It may sound odd and I may be called a "bleeding heart liberal" but there is a direct correlation between unemployment, alienation from society of the young and violent street crime.

However, the Clinton administration, in concert with right wing Republicans (and many "liberal" Democrats) has come up with an all encompassing Crime Bill which many experts say is another step toward the scrapping of our constitution in the name of public safety. This bill, likewise, does not address the causes of crime

During President Clinton's 1992 campaign, he had a banner in his campaign headquarters that read, "IT'S THE ECONOMY, STUPID!". This was supposed to suggest that if elected, Clinton would "fix" the economy.

The Reagan-Bush crowd showed the corporations that we could have an economy free of labor unions and that the

and Southern Calif.

The PCPA Board of Directors members shall receive the same subsistence and expenses as PCPA Officers and Executive Board members.

A cheerful group of members enjoyed the Lake Shasta cruise on the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 11. They partook of copious amounts of soda pop, hamburgers and hot dogs, skillfully cooked by Brother John Ehly of Tacoma and PCPA President Jim Foster and artfully constructed by PCPA V.P. Tillie Sylvia, and two sisters from San Francisco whose name I did not record.

Besides the business of the convention, which will be dealt with elsewhere in this publication, there was a hospitality room open every night so that the delegates could socialize, the hotel hosted a "happy hour on the first night and the annual banquet, dance and general fun night was held on Tuesday night. A series of raffles for money and handiworks was conducted at the close of every session.

Elections were held and the officers elected were President, Jim Foster, Local 8; 1st Vice President, Lou Loveridge, Local 13; 2nd Vice President, Tillie Sylvia, Local 10; Secretary Treasurer, Arne Auvinen, Local 21

The Executive Board consists of Art Kaunisto, Local 13, Los Angeles; Joe Mosley, Local 10, San Francisco; Terry Greene, Local 6, Bay Area Warehouse; Gene Bailey, Local 12, North Bend; Jesse Stranahan, Local 40, Portland; John Ehly, Local 23, Tacoma; and Dick Mork, Local 19, Seattle.

VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8

civil rights victories of the past three decades could be ignored. In doing so, they created a permanent under class who will have to scrounge the best way they can -- whose welfare will not be the responsibility of government (society) but will depend, much as corporations' welfare depends - on how much they can steal. Now, we have a rapidly shrinking number of good-paying industrial union jobs with absolutely no hope of ever seeing a resurgence of the American industrial superiority of the past. (thanks to NAFTA and GATT). The rapid increase in street crime is a symptom of larger social ills - it does not happen in a vacuum. With this drastic cut in income and the accompanying sense of alienation from society and frustration with not being capable of doing anything about it comes a sense of hostility and desperation that inevitably leads to crime and violence.

"And how will the United States cope with the rising tide of alienation and hostility and outright lawlessness that will likely emanate from Americans who discover that their country has left them behind?"

"IT'S THE CRIME BILL, STUPID!"

(last paragraph reprinted from The Nation)

BARON VON LIMBAUGH (cont)

("Would I make this stuff up?")

We are continuing the series on Rush ('Baron Von') Limbaugh because the average American citizen (this includes workers and pensioners) are not accustomed to being lied to. In fact, it is this writer's opinion that a deliberately lying on the public airwaves should carry a severe penalty. Be that as it may, we continue with Limbaugh's litany of fabrication.

LIMBAUGH: Comparing the 1950s with the present: "And I might point out that poverty and economic disparities between the lower and upper classes were greater during the former period." (His book, 'See, I Told You So', p.94)

REALITY: Income inequality, as measured by the U.S. Census Bureau, fell from the 1940s to the late 1960s, and then began rising. Inequality surpassed the 1950 level in 1982 and rose steadily to all-time highs in 1992. (Census Bureau's "Money Income of Households, Families and Persons in the United States.") [Incidentally, the period between 1982 & 1992 saw the greatest upward transfer of wealth in the world's history, Those homeless people did not happen in a vacuum. (my comment)]

LIMBAUGH: The poorest people in America are better off than the mainstream families of Europe". (Radio Show -- Spring/93)

REALITY: Huh? The average cash income of the poorest 20% of Americans is \$5,226. The average cash income of four major European nations -- Germany, France, United Kingdom and Italy -- is \$19,708.

LIMBAUGH: "Oh, how they relished blaming Reagan administration policies, including the mythical reductions in HUD's budget for public housing, for creating all of the homeless! Budget cuts? There were no budget cuts! The budget figures show that actual construction of public housing increased during the Reagan years." (His book, 'The Way Things Ought to be', p. 242-243)

REALITY: In 1980, 20,900 low-income housing units were under construction; in 1988, there were 9,700, a decline of 54% (Statistical Abstracts of the U.S.) In terms of 1993 dollars, the HUD budget for construction of new public housing was slashed from \$6.3 billion in 1980 to \$683 million in 1988. "We're getting out of the housing business. Period." a Reagan HUD official said in 1985.

LIMBAUGH: "If you have any doubts about the status of American health care, just compare it with that in other industrialized nations." (His book, 'See, I Told You So' p. 153)

REALITY: The United States ranks 16th in life expectancy and 21st in infant survival among industrialized nations, according to the CIA's '1993 World Fact Book'. The United States also has the lowest health care satisfaction rate (11%) of the 10 largest industrialized nations. (Health Affairs, Vol 9, No. 2)

LIMBAUGH: Denouncing Jeremy Rifkin of Beyond Beef campaign as an "ecopest": "Rifkin is bent out of shape because he says the cattle consume enough grain to feed hundreds of millions of people. The reason the cattle are eating the grain is so they can be fattened and slaughtered, after which they will feed people, who need a high protein diet."

REALITY: Sixteen pounds of grain and soy are required to produce one pound of edible food from beef. (USDA Economic Research Service) As for needing a "high-protein diet", the World Health Organization and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture recommend that from 4.5% to 6% of daily calories come from protein. The amount of calories from protein in rice is 8%; in wheat, it's 17% (USDA Handbook No. 456).

LIMBAUGH: "Do you know we have more acreage in forest land in the United States today than we did at the time the constitution was written?" (Radio show, 2/18/94)

REALITY: In what are now the 50 U.S. states, there were 850 million acres of forest land in the late 1700s, vs. only 730 million today. (The Bum's Rush, p. 136). Limbaugh's claim also ignores the fact that many of today's forests are single-species tree farms, as opposed to natural, old-growth forests that support diverse ecosystems.

LIMBAUGH: "Anytime the illegitimacy rate in black America is raised, Reverend Jackson and other black 'leaders' immediately change the subject." (His book, The Way Things Ought to Be, p. 225)

REALITY: Jesse Jackson has been talking about and against "children having children" in speeches and interviews for years.. So have many black leaders, especially in the clergy.

LIMBAUGH: "There are more American Indians alive today than there were when Columbus arrived or at any other time in history. Does this sound like a record of genocide?"

REALITY: According to Carl Shaw of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, estimates of the pre-Columbus population of what later became the United States range from 5 million to 15 million. Native populations in the late 19th Century fell to 250,000, due in part to genocidal policies. Today, the U.S.'s Native American population is about 2 million.

LIMBAUGH: "Those gas lines were a direct result of the foreign oil powers playing rough with us because they didn't fear Jimmy Carter." ('I Told You So, p. 112)

REALITY: The first -- and most serious -- occurred in late 73/early 74 during the administration of Limbaugh hero, Richard Nixon.

When Limbaugh uses his patented disclaimer, "I'm not making this up, folks." it's time to run for cover. The big problem is that there is no one in the mass media

who will refute his rubbish. The fact is, they lionize him as some sort of latter-day prophet. His purported 'facts' are almost never challenged, therefore, this silence is a tacit admission of Limbaugh's veracity. In 1954, Edward R. Murrow confronted another demagogue who had a similar aversion to facts and documentation. Today's TV networks don't ask themselves how they can challenge Limbaugh's "Reign of Error" -- instead, they ask themselves how they can profit from him. Where are the Edward R. Murrows of today? CBS News, the platform from which Murrow exposed McCarthy, has been seeking to hire Limbaugh as a commentator. (More in next issue)

FLUSH RUSH! ! ! by Dick Moork

In the last issue, we ran a series of quotes of Rush Limbaugh and accompanied them with the facts of the real world. If you read that article, you saw the credit given to FAIR, (Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting). In this month's EXTRA!/Update, their newsletter, they ran an article on the reaction of the mass media. There were articles on the FAIR piece, which was entitled "Rush Limbaugh's Reign of Error." that really portrayed Limbaugh as the boob he is. Limbaugh's response, predictably was to call FAIR "a group run by America's best known leftists and feminists." He made no attempt to honor his

promise ... (Radio show, 8/30/93) that "If I find that I have been mistaken or in error, then I proclaim it generally at the beginning of a program -- or as loudly as I can." Instead, he went the route of all scoundrels, he red-baited his opposition instead of addressing the real issue.

To demonstrate his contempt for the powerless and disenfranchised and his subservience to the rich and powerful, here are a few of Limbaugh's gems:

"One of the things I hope to do before I die is conduct the Homeless Olympics ... [Events would include] the 10-meter Shopping Cart Relay, the Dumpster Dig, and the Hop, Skip and Trip." (L.A. Times, 1/20/91) and,

"Why is it that whenever a corporation fires workers it is never speculated that the workers might have deserved it?" (His book, 'The Way Things Ought To Be', p. 275)

"This is asinine! A Cesar Chavez Day in California? Wasn't he convicted of a crime? (Quoted in Flush Rush Quarterly, Winter/1994)

This issue carries more of Limbaugh's beauts and the reality check for each. The source is the same, FAIR, and the original source will be provided in parentheses. They are on the following page.

You haven't heard the last of Limbaugh's whoppers.

SOUTH AFRICA'S NEW GOVERNMENT

(Articles on South Africa & Salinas from UAW D.C. RPT.)

It's interesting to note that, as one of his first administrative acts, South African President Nelson Mandela has named key trade union officials to his new administration. Jay Naidoo, who led the largest labor federation, has been named the cabinet minister in charge of economic reconstruction.

Sidney Mufamadi, another unionist, will be in charge of reforming the police and security forces. And, Alec Irwin, an autoworker's union leader, has been named Deputy Finance Minister.

This is certainly in sharp contrast to corporate America, where union leaders and union members seem to be a pariah.

EPITAPHS

A new parlor game is becoming popularized: Creating appropriate epitaphs for still living personalities. The following are two of the more appropriate:

UNITED FARM WORKERS OF WASHINGTON STATE

On April 10, 1994, the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS), in convention, voted overwhelmingly to affiliate with the United Farm Workers of America. Of course, this move will give the UFWWS increased leverage in their organizing drive at Chateau Ste. Michelle. David Gierer, CEO, U.S. Tobacco, parent company of Chateau Ste. Michelle, announced this at the last stockholders meeting. He said that the company was "hopeful that a resolution to this dispute could be found" and that a letter had been sent to David Martinez, Sec.-Treas. of UFW of America, AFL-CIO, expressing this sentiment. Hopefully, this added muscle will move Chateau Ste. Michelle off top dead center in this brawl. Meanwhile, don't buy Chateau Ste. Michelle, or affiliated wines,

JUST REWARDS

On the other hand, word from European sources indicates that Mexican President Salinas may be rewarded for supporting NAFTA. The Clinton Administration may back the free-trader to be the first director of the World Trade Organization (see President's Report) --- the body that will decide on the rules of international trade under the new GATT agreement.

The U.S. reportedly would back the candidate of Britain's right-wing ruling party to become head of the Organization of economic Cooperation and development in return for European support for Salinas becoming the World Trade Czar.

These two stories, when laid side-by-side, make for some very interesting food for thought.

"In keeping with his testimony,
HERE LIES OLIVER NORTH".

AND

"BOB PACKWOOD: HE TOUCHED US ALL".

nor patronize establishments that serve it.

In addition, don't be confused by any literature from some phony "Farm Worker's Organizing Committee". This is a disruptive force, led by disgruntled ex-UFW members and actively financially **SUPPORTED BY THE EMPLOYER**. They are in no way connected with the United Farmworkers and, in addition, they are willing to sign a sweetheart agreement with Chateau Ste. Michelle if they can ever get their foot in the door.

In the first week of July, Willie Nelson and other stars cancelled concerts at Chateau Ste. Michelle. This is a direct result of the national stature gained by the United Farm Workers of Washington State from their affiliation with UFW Of A. It is also a direct result of the social consciousness of Willie Nelson, et al.

**THOSE WHO SET THE TABLE
VETERANS OF THE '34 STRIKE
PHIL POTH**

"Asleep in the Wing"

by Del Castle

The title comes from Brother Poth's own words. He admits to spending a considerable time "asleep in the wing" in his formative years on the Seattle waterfront. You see, he was attending law school during the day and working on the waterfront night-side. Because of this killing schedule, it took him five years, instead of the usual three, to finish law school.

Brother Poth started on the Seattle waterfront in 1927. He ended up on the trucker board where they worked mostly apples, salmon and lumber. Until 1934 and the great organizing strike. Phil, like most of the work force, hired out of the "fink hall".

VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8

**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)

- Murrell Lee
- Ralph Heino
- F. Jacobson
- Fred Clark
- Phil Crawford
- Barney Odonin
- Jack Dennison
- Bob & Bev Swanson
- Leo Huniu
- Roman Cavillorav
- Val Suegel
- George Niemi

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

VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8

EFFECTS OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

(and what is planned for the American worker)

Women in a U.S.-owned baseball factory in Haiti are paid \$6.42 for a six-day, 63 hour work week.

A delegation of U.S. unionists visiting a plant found that workers stood in place from 6 am to 5 pm daily, with only one break, a half hour for lunch. The intense heat in the plant was a nightmare; there was no running water and there were no working toilets. Young women were fired if they refused to have sex with supervisors. Union talk also brought firing. (Source: the National Labor Committee Education Fund in Support of Human Rights in Central America. The NLC is composed of the presidents of 24 unions that represent some 12 million North American workers)

In Reynosa, Mexico, 400 auto parts jobs that once were held by members of the Glass, Molders & Pottery Workers and the United Auto Workers unions at S&H Fabricating & Engineering Inc. plants in the U.S. now are held by workers who get 90¢ and hour.

Benefits? They get free lunch -- if they eat it at

Although he was a member of the '34 Strike Committee, Phil was excused from picket duty because of religious principles. You see, Phil was, and is, a Quaker and, as such, has vowed not to participate in violence. As an aside, then as today, political and religious tolerance was a proud and democratic practice of the longshoremen.

Phil, who has a vivid recollection of those days, recalls that support for the strike was virtually unanimous. Although there were some who were hesitant, everybody felt that it would take a superhuman effort to win.

When the strike was successfully concluded, everyone came to realize that they had won a real victory. The same spirit surrounded the series of "wildcat" strikes that ensued when the employer attempted to scrap the agreement and the union.

As we all know, says Phil, trade unions are facing hard times now because of anti-union laws and employer/media bias. The answer, says Phil is - "SOLIDARITY"

VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8

ILWU HISTORY

The Harry Bridges Institute was in town in September taking oral histories of some of our veterans dockers. The interviews were only a sampling. The Institute has promises from some veteran and noted historians to take on the task of doing a series of professional type interviews so that all of the experiences of the old times will not be lost. The current interviews (audio & video) are meant to be samples to show to the historians.

As the official pension club, we have a copious number of members that qualify for, and can do a real service relating their experiences in the ILWU.

If any member or family of a member thinks he/she can make a contribution and wishes to do so, contact the club - (206) 343-0504.

VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8

their work stations. And how about the cozy work atmosphere: the single entrances to the three Reynosa plants are monitored by armed guards and the factories are surrounded by razor-wire fences. (Source GMP research)

In Bangladesh, tens of thousands of children are working in garment factories for literally pennies a day. Human rights activists report that many of the kids are as young as 8 and 20% are under 12. Work shifts of 12 to 14 hours a day are common.

Garment factory owners in Bangladesh commonly lock workers inside factories. More than 10% of the female garment workers reportedly suffer physical abuse in the workplace. (Source: UFCW Women's Network)

These are the conditions to which the American worker is supposed to become "competitive". If we allow the continuing destruction of organized labor in the United States and don't support our foreign brothers and sisters in their struggles to improve their lives, it will only take a couple of generations for these practices to become "acceptable" here.

by Dick Moork

CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The 1994 PCPA convention passed several strong resolutions which are being relayed to the proper places. Among these were:

WORKPLACE DEMOCRACY ACT

A resolution reaffirming support for the Workplace Democracy Act, which was introduced by Congressman Bernie Sanders (I-VT). Its provisions call for; (1) Simplification of union certification,; (2) the repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Law which is the enabling legislation for "Right-to-Work" laws; (3) Force binding arbitration if the employer stalls over 45 days on an original contract; (4) strengthens NLRB enforcement of workers' rights under unfair labor practices by employers; (5) repeals Taft-Hartley prohibition of sympathy strikes, boycotts, 'situa' picketing, and 'hot cargo' agreements.

HEALTH CARE

The health care resolution urges Congress to forego any more bargaining for this year. The fear is that anything we get now would be detrimental to us and would be difficult to rescind, such as; The proposed prohibition of states' right to install a single-payer health care bill; Meddling in negotiated health care plans, etc.

The week following the convention (not taking credit but showing that the PCPA is in the mainstream of the political spectrum), Congress abandoned any action vis-a vis health care till next year.

JERRY BULCKE

A resolution memorializing the '34 strike veteran and past International vice-president and his many contributions to the ILWU and the labor movement.

PENSION CLUB POLITICAL ACTION — 1994-95

A resolution setting forth a program for PCPA local clubs to further the political clout of the PCPA, the ILWU and the labor movement. This includes working closely with the Locals, the District Councils, the International and, if possible, state and local labor councils and retirement councils.

RETIREMENT HOMES

A resolution supporting a program of retirement (not nursing) homes for ILWU members and their families. The intent is to make one's retirement years as easy as possible for the retiree and his/her family..

HARRY BRIDGES CHAIR IN LABOR STUDIES

The Chair in Labor Studies has celebrated its 2nd anniversary since the \$1 million endowment. Collecting the \$1 million, in the manner it was collected, was deemed impossible by the experts. They ain't seen nothin' yet. Today, 2 years later, the endowment is near \$1.3 million. This has been done in small doses, such as \$25 memorials to friends who have left us, to amounts such as the \$10,000 bequeathed to the Chair by the late Brother Tom Scibor and the \$100 per month for life from Brother Nils Lannge, a Local 10 pensioner. Because the only money that can be used in a perpetual endowment is the interest, the added money means that the program can continually expand. Thus, the foresight of the thinkers who came up with the idea of the Chair in Labor Studies is that much more impressive.

WIDOW'S PENSIONS

An appeal to negotiate a 75% Widow's Pension. Something that was unsuccessful in the last negotiations but which, because of the cost-of-living is of utmost need.

CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE FARM WORKERS

Urges support for the farm worker struggles in all three coastal states, including the continuation of the support for the grape boycott and that copies of the resolution be sent to all three farm worker unions, the State labor federations of all three states, the Oregon Retirees Council and the Harry Bridges Chair and Labor Center, University of Washington. This also includes the UFW's struggle against Chateau Ste. Michelle.

IBU STRIKE AT JAMES RIVER - PORTLAND

Affirms full support for this strike against a company which has a seven-tier wage structure and where it takes 7000 hrs. to reach the full wage scale. Where the company is attempting to remove medical benefits and demands cutbacks on pension contributions. We must never forget, "An injury to one is an injury to all.

GATT

As with NAFTA, the PCPA condemns GATT, which is a worldwide extension of NAFTA and complete surrender of the sovereignty of signatory nations to the World Trade Organization. A petition in the form of a letter meant for the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives was circulated at the convention. The petition enumerated our objections to GATT and urged non-passage.

LABOR PARTY

In concert with the International Convention, a resolution was passed instructing the PCPA officers to "investigate the desirability, feasibility and the machinery of endorsing and/or joining Labor Party Advocates" and that they "bring back a report to the next executive board meeting so that an informed recommendation can be brought to the membership at the next convention". Labor Party Advocates slogan, "The bosses have two parties. Don't you think we should have at least one?" was the question of the day.

The convention discussed the problem of both major political parties representing the same people (the corporations) and unanimously endorsed the resolution.

Dick Moork

VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8 --- VOTE! -- NOV. 8

OUT OF THE BALLPARK

Then papers of record have been covering the baseball strike in depth, publishing detailed accounts on the bargaining position of both sides. It's good to see a labor dispute taken so seriously in the press, but wouldn't it be nice if these papers could pay a fraction of this attention when the workers in question aren't celebrity sports figures? Just as an example, more than 700 workers at the A.E. Staley corn-processing plant in Decatur Ill., have been locked out of their plant for more than a year. As of August 23, 1994, according to a search of the Nexis base, neither the Washington Post nor the New York Times had written one word about the on-going lockout.

(Reprinted from FAIR's EXTRA/Update)

Book Review --- WHO REALLY PAYS THE TAXES?

By Bartlett and Steele

This is a book that is nigh impossible to put down. It has a lot of inside information known only to tax professionals and, perhaps their wealthy clients.

As the book points out, over time, it has evolved that there is no longer an income tax. Indeed, there is still a tax on wages and salaries, but one's income from other sources, such as capital gains, rental properties, interest, dividends and foreign earnings escape taxes if you are wealthy enough to hire loophole seeking accountants. As it stands now, the rich, if they properly schedule their investments, need not pay any tax at all. Only those who engage in certain unspecified high return adventures will owe anything. In any case, they do not have to pay at a rate higher than that of the average working class person.

As it stands now, working people pay a regressive social security tax which is highly favorable to the wealthy. The \$60,600 breakpoint means that a longshoreman earning that much will have to pay exactly the same as Bill Gates, recently cited as the wealthiest man in the United States. The earned retirement benefits would be exactly the same.

Social security has come to be a fraud. In 1958, the social security tax rate was 1.5% and the average worker paid \$54 per year into the fund. All pensions were completely covered. By 1993 it was a different picture. Average average family income went up 793% since 1954,

social security taxes rose 5283% in the same period. The tax rate is now 7.65%, costing the average family \$2907 per year.

For decades, social security has not been placed in a special fund as it was intended. It has been no more than a tax on wages. Money taken in by the federal government is indeed used to pay for pensions but, more importantly -- and this is the joker --, fifty billion, annually, of the social security tax surplus has been used to pay for other government expenses. This is about 10% of the total annual federal income and is \$50 billion in taxes that the wealthy and the corporations don't have to pay. This is a frameup perpetrated by our members of Congress in Washington, whose public image on ethics now stands alongside used car dealers, porn shop owners and tabloid journalists.

One of the most crass among these is our own beloved Slade Gorton. On page 90 of this book, he is quoted as saying that high taxes for the rich was tantamount to class warfare. If asked if the high social security tax on the poor was also class warfare, he would surely respond by saying everybody should sacrifice equally and any future cut in pensions should go straight across the board. ("Every citizen, be he rich or poor, has the same right to sleep under the bridge".) It goes without saying that Bill Gates, were he a bit older, would be willing to make the same sacrifice and demand the same right

by Fred Berg

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

ARTHUR MINK
169 POWER AVE.
SEATTLE, WA 98122

