

LONGSHOREMEN



I.L.W.U. ■ CANADIAN AREA

WATERFRONT NEWS



APRIL 1982

SPECIAL ISSUE ON 1982 AREA CONVENTION



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I.L.W.U. WATERFRONT NEWS
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Over 60 delegates from all locals attended the 17th convention of the Canadian Area I.L.W.U. held at the Royal Towers Hotel in New Westminster, March 15-19. For the first time the delegates included a woman, from Local 518, National Harbours Board.

As usual the convention opened with the reading of the Officer's Report. The delegates then divided into committees to consider the Officer's Report, finances and resolutions. The committees, in turn, reported back to the convention with their recommendations which were debated and voted on.

Two featured addresses to the convention were by Dr. Emil Bjarnason, the Canadian Area Research Director, and international president Jim Herman.

"The single most important issue facing all mankind is the threat of nuclear war," declared the Officer's Report which was adopted by the convention. "There is no solution to the menace of nuclear war except total disarmament and there is no road to disarmament ex-

cept negotiations."

The convention endorsed the peace petition being circulated by the Canadian Peace Congress entitled "Peace is Everybody's Business." It advocates that Canada:

1. Press the United States for an early signing of the SALT treaty and start talks on the limitation of medium range missiles.
2. Work for the simultaneous dissolution of military alliances, dismantling of foreign military bases and the banning of chemical and germ warfare.
3. Actively support the convening of an European Conference on Detente and Disarmament since it is the world's most heavily armed area.

The convention also decided that the Canadian Area of the ILWU "protest in the strongest terms" the decision of the U.S. and Canadian governments to test Cruise Missiles on sovereign Canadian soil, stating that it would destroy Canada's capacity to act as a peace-keeper in the world.

PEACE IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!

**SUNDAY,
APRIL 24**

WALK FOR PEACE

Walk from Kits Beach
12:00 noon

Rally at Sunset Beach
2:00 p.m.

Speakers:

Dr. Jesse Chiang

Dr. Wm. Epstein

Jim and Shelly Douglas

"We are determined that nuclear war can be prevented. It can be. Like the millions of Europeans who rallied for peace and disarmament, Canadians must do their part."

*The life you save is your own.
END THE ARMS RACE!*

Endorsed by the Vancouver and District Labour Council, ILWU, United Nations Association, Vancouver Council of Churches and many other groups.

NEW CANADIAN AREA OFFICERS



D.P. Garcia, President



D.C. Lomas, 1st Vice-President



W. Gallic, 2nd Vice-President



D. Harris, 3rd Vice-President



F. Kennedy, Secretary-Treas.

PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

The Officer's Report recommended the convention concur that we adopt the following position on the provincial elections which may be imminent:

"Rumours of an imminent provincial election are flying again even though the government still has another two years to go.

Based on its record we believe this government deserves to be defeated. It has sold out our resources to big multinational corporations. It is cutting services to people and penalizing the poor. It has no program to create jobs. It is imposing constantly higher taxes and user-fees for services. It is even indulging in dirty tricks such as gerrymandering of constituency boundaries, such as the obscene case of "Gracie's Finger" in Little Mountain constituency in Vancouver.

The only realistic alternative to Social Credit is the NDP.

However, any support we give to the

NDP must not be interpreted as a blank cheque. The leadership of the NDP has made clear to labour more than once that while it wants our support, it doesn't want to be called the political arm of labour. It wants to keep its options open. That is its right. By the same token, we need to keep our options open too.

We cannot forget that along with the many progressive reforms introduced by the NDP government from 1972-75, it also introduced back to work legislation that caused serious rifts in the labour movement of this province. Nor can we forget that NDP members of the House of Commons joined with the government more than once to legislate us back to work when we were on strike.

Therefore our support to the NDP should be critical support: If it is elected, we reserve the right to support those of its actions that we consider progressive and to criticize or oppose any actions which we consider against the best interests of labour."

ASSESSMENTS AND TAXES

The Officer's Report pointed out that one of the reasons why taxes on homes are going up so fast is that big commercial and industrial properties are not paying their fair share of taxes and the provincial government is steadily forcing homeowners to pay a greater share of educational costs.

To overcome this situation it recommended:

- The provincial government should adopt the report of the McMath Commission which recommended that the provincial government pay 75% of the costs of education and local governments, 25%.
- There must be a greater sharing of provincial revenues with the municipalities.
- Big industrial and commercial properties must be assessed at their true market value so that they will be compelled to pay their fair share of taxes.
- Homes should not be taxed to raise money for general revenue; they should be taxed only for those services that directly affect homes such as streets, sidewalks, lighting, sewer and water, and police and fire protection.
- We should have a variable mill rate that enables municipal councils to charge a higher mill rate for profit-generating enterprises than for homes; furthermore the mill rate should be



Local 502 President G. White welcomes delegates to New Westminster.



Local 514 Delegates

FLOODING OF SKAGIT VALLEY

The convention expressed strong opposition to the proposed flooding of the Skagit Valley which is "one of the finest recreational areas in southern B.C. and one that is used extensively by the people of the Greater Vancouver Area."

It demanded that the Valley be preserved for the benefit of our citizens and pledged support to all groups that have this objective.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The convention agreed that "we urge our members and locals to become actively involved in municipal politics, to assist in the formation of broad alliances of progressive municipal forces, to offer themselves as candidates and to give their full support to labour-endorsed candidates and slates."

"Let's remember that some of what we win at the bargaining table can be taken away at the municipal table, unless we have representatives and spokesmen of labour there to protect our interests."

WATERFRONT NEWS

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S AND WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION
CANADIAN AREA

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

FRANK KENNEDY — EDITOR
2681 EAST HASTINGS STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C. V5K 1Z5



PRESIDENT
1ST VICE PRESIDENT
2ND VICE PRESIDENT
3RD VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY-TREASURER

D.P. GARCIA
D.C. LOMAS
W. GALLIC
D. HARRIS
F. KENNEDY

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE RECESSION

After reviewing the state of the Canadian economy, the Officer's Report noted that "the government and big business have ganged up to place the main burden of the economic crisis on the backs of working people so that profits may be maintained at high levels despite the crisis." Steps being taken include cuts in spending by governments on services to people, increased taxes, profiteering in the price of food and other necessities, high interest rates, high rents for tenants, high prices for energy, a call for restraints and concessions by unions, and the threat of instituting wage controls.

Some Solutions

Solutions to the economic crisis will not be found in wage controls, cut backs in services or concessions in union contracts. They must be looked for in the direction of increasing the purchasing power of working people so they can buy back the goods they produce, taxation based on ability to pay, job creation through nation-building projects, diversification of our trade so that all our eggs are not in the U.S. basket, limiting the rights of employers to lay-offs and closure, and nationalization of key industries such as our financial institutions and energy.

Specifically we propose:

- Government action to bring down interest rates. Introduce exchange controls (such as Japan, France and Italy) to limit the outflow of capital in response to lowering of interest rates. Profits made in Canada should be invested in Canada for the benefit of this country.

Nationalize the financial institutions beginning with the banks and trusts.

- Create jobs through the building of secondary, manufacturing industries to

process more of our raw materials before they are exported. Orient on producing the goods needed by our people here in Canada. Undertake a massive housing program.

- Increase the purchasing power of working people through wage increases to meet inflation, higher pensions and unemployment insurance, lower income taxes for working people, higher minimum wages.

- Nationalize the oil and natural gas industry. Build east-west natural gas and oil pipelines to service Canadians from coast to coast with our own oil and natural gas. Build an east-west power grid to serve Canada before exporting power to the U.S.

- Increase taxes on the big corporations to ensure that they pay their fair share of taxes. Close the tax loopholes.

- Increased trade with third world countries and with socialist countries to diversify our markets and sources so that we won't get a sore throat every time the U.S. economy coughs.

- Cut arms expenditures by 50%.

- Limit the right of corporations to close plants and lay off workers.

- Government action to make lower interest rates for mortgages available. Impose strict rent controls.

To agree on what should be done is one thing. To do something about it another. All too often in the Canadian Labour Congress and the B.C. Federation of Labour, good programs have been adopted and then nothing done about them. What is required is a plan of action to win public support for labour's program and to pressure the government into some reforms. Just waiting until the next election isn't good enough.

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF THE RCMP

The Officer's Report noted that the report of the McDonald Royal Commission on the RCMP confirmed that the RCMP had been engaged in a wide variety of illegal activities and dirty tricks that made a mockery of labour and democratic rights. The RCMP broke Canadian laws with immunity while government ministers turned a blind eye. These illegal criminal activities included break-ins, tapping telephones, stealing membership lists, spying on elected NDP legislators, forging political documents to discredit individuals or groups and opening mail. The RCMP today have files on 1.2 million Canadians regarded as subversive or potentially subversive.

One of the recommendations of the McDonald Commission was that a new secret service be established, separate and apart from the RCMP. The govern-

ment has already acted on this recommendation. The Commission also recommended that this new secret service be given wide powers, including powers to do legally what the RCMP had been doing illegally all these years. This recommendation has great dangers for Canadian democracy unless parliament puts a tight rein of checks and balances on its operations.

The Officer's Report recommended and the convention concurred that "public control be established over this new security service so that it will be answerable to parliament and the people for its actions. Furthermore it would be advisable to set up public watch-dog committees to hear public complaints and to monitor its activities to ensure that it isn't used to spy on and harass the labour movement or to treat political dissent as subversive."

BERT JOHNSON (1938-1982)

On March 20, 1982, Brother Bert Johnson, Canadian Area Third Vice President and Safety Co-ordinator, was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in Burnaby, B.C.

Johnson had served as an Executive Member of Local 500 for a number of years since joining the Union in 1967. He served as a member of the Membership and Grievance, Despatch, and Service Committees, and was responsible for the successful revival of the Annual Vancouver Longshore Picnic. He also served as Business Agent for Local 500 in 1977 and 1981.

Dan Cole, Secretary-Treasurer for Local 500, speaking at a Memorial Service attended by some 400 people at The Vancouver Indian Centre on March 24th, stated that "The Union has lost a great deal with his death — including his considerable organizing and administrative skills, his selfless dedication and his articulate contribution to the debate on the major issues within the Union."

Funeral Services were held on March 25, 1982 in Vancouver.



POLAND

After critically reviewing the actions of both the Polish government and Solidarity, the Officer's Report concluded:

"Our union is not required to support everything any organization does that calls itself a union. Nor are we required to support everything that Solidarity has done or does, nor what is done by those outside of Poland who speak in the name of Solidarity and claim to speak for Polish workers.

"We take the same stand we have always taken — that it is the right of all workers to set up unions of their own choice, and this includes Polish workers, and that the rights of unions, including Polish unions, must be respected by the Polish government and state.

"We also believe that it is the right of

Polish workers to make up their own minds without interference from outside, and we are confident they will do so.

"There is no evidence that there is starvation in Poland, but there are obviously serious shortages of foodstuffs and medical supplies. For any country to impose sanctions on Poland is nothing less than an attempt to make things worse in Poland so that more internal strife will result. Our stand is that we favour expanded trade between Canada and Poland, especially of food at this critical period in its history."

The above statement was adopted by the convention.

A recommendation by a committee to send a delegation to Poland was defeated.



A. Point, R. Dumont — Convention Credential Committee.



Liz Partington 517, A. Bianco, S. Bushell, P. Brown — Convention Delegates.

CONVENTION RESOLUTION — HUMAN RIGHTS EL SALVADOR

Whereas:

Those people in El Salvador who cherish democratic freedoms as a way of life are being subjected to imprisonment, torture and murder at the hands of the El Salvador government and government supported "death squads" and

Whereas:

Those people who have taken up arms in the defense of democracy and freedom for trade unions need the support of all fair minded people throughout the world,

Therefore be it resolved:

The I.L.W.U. Canadian Area go on record as supporting the fight of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) in El

Salvador as the representative democratic political force within El Salvador, and

2. The I.L.W.U. Canadian Area be requested to make the appropriate demands to the federal government to ensure that no Canadian aid is given to the repressive military regime in El Salvador, and

3. The I.L.W.U. Canadian Area be requested to demand the federal government withdraw recognition of the "Official" military regime and in its place recognize the FMLN and the FDR as the legitimate voice of the people of El Salvador, and

4. The I.L.W.U. Canadian Area go on record as condemning the continued military involvement and support by the United States of the military regime in El Salvador.

CORPORATE CONTROL OF THE MEDIA

The Kent Royal Commission on corporate concentration of the media in Canada pointed out that "three chains control nine-tenths of the French language daily newspaper circulation. Three other chains control two-thirds of English language circulation ... Often chain owners of daily newspapers also control community newspapers, broadcasting stations, periodicals, and major interest outside the media." Southam Press owns both the Vancouver Sun and Vancouver Province. The only independent Newspaper among the 19 in B.C. is the Columbian.

"This corporate concentration is very profitable," the Officer's Report noted. "It enables them to charge all the traffic will bear, without any competition, for advertising and circulation. Furthermore it gives them tremendous power to mould public opinion by slanting the news, promoting the Cold War, carrying tirades against labour and strikes and blaming labour for inflation."

ORGANIZING

The Officer's Report outlined organizing activities carried on since the last convention and the problems involved in expanding the union.

The convention committee charged with considering this section of the report then made the following motion which was passed by the convention:

Committee recommends that a conference of all locals involved be held to reverse organizational methods. This conference can determine such questions as:

The Officer's recommended and the convention concurred that: "Legislation be brought in to break up these newspaper chains on the principle of one newspaper, one owner. Furthermore, no owner of any one form of the media such as newspaper, radio or TV, should be allowed to own any other form."

"Establishment of a public watch-dog body which will include labour, civil liberties and other citizen groups, to set standards of dissemination of information and deal with public complaints of slanted reporting or misinformation. Access to the press should be guaranteed to labour and other public organizations to ensure balance reporting."

"Public grants to assist citizen groups including unions, to establish their own papers and removal of the discriminatory postal rates that now exist against small publications. These grants could be financed by a surcharge on the profits of the media."

i) Organizing outside the waterfront.

ii) Setting up another local.

iii) Dealing with jurisdictional problems.

iv) Dealing with jurisdictional agreements with other unions at arm's length to us.

v) Establishing a need for a representative from each local area to be responsible for organizing contact and coordination with the Area office.

vi) Determining the need for establishing a transportation alliance to protect our mutual interests.

CONVENTION RESOLUTION PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Whereas:

The waterfront is where our members make their livings, and

Whereas:

We handle cargoes that are proven dangerous to both health and the environment if not handled in a safe manner, and

Whereas:

There are many citizens' groups working against industrial and chemical pollution,

Therefore be it resolved:

That the I.L.W.U. strive for a cleaner and healthier environment, and

Be it further resolved:

That we co-operate with citizens' environmental groups where possible to achieve the above.



D. Sommerville, Local 500



H. Elder, Local 502

ALLIANCE OF TRANSPORTATION UNIONS

The Officer's Report informed delegates that efforts were being made to establish a better liaison with other transportation unions in Canada. The aim is to establish a closer relationship in form of an alliance and mutual aid pact. Exploratory meetings have been held and a further meeting is planned.

"An alliance of transportation unions within the C.L.C. would be of considerable importance to our Union," the

Officer's Report stated. "We have common interests in regard to federal legislation and have felt the sting of compulsory arbitration. If an alliance can be established, it would have considerable clout with the federal government and give us a more secure position in any arbitrary position we may find ourselves in with the C.L.C."

The convention authorized the officers to continue with these endeavors.

RETIRED MEMBERS

Number	Name	Age	Years of Service	Date of Retirement
PA00353	G. Stirling	64-10	35	Feb. 1/82
VA01599	F. Brook	55-9	18	Feb. 1/82
CH00538	M. McTaggart	61-5	32	Feb. 1/82
CH05662	P. Oryshak	62-11	28	Feb. 1/82
VA14215	G. Loukes	64-10	10	Feb. 1/82
VA06533	D. Evans	62	28	Feb. 1/82
NW02584	W. Palasty	62	19	Dec. 1/81
PA06682	C. St. Claire	62-1	36	Jan. 1/82
VI01286	H. Morrison	64-8	26	Feb. 1/82
VA03535	W. Hutchison	59-1	29	Jan. 1/82
CH03704	G. Thomas	55-8	35	Feb. 1/82
VA12981	F. Gilbert	65	11	Jan. 1/82
VA06228	J. Gorenc	62	32	Feb. 1/82
CH04904	D. McCarthy	57-3	22	June 1/81
VA00184	E. Emary	58	39	Jan. 1/82
VA00643	J. Stevens	65	31	Feb. 1/82
VA06671	A. Williams	63-9	32	Feb. 1/82

ELECTED TRUSTEE



D. Cole — 4 year term.

DECEASED PENSIONERS

Number	Name	Date of Retirement	Age	Date of Death
03905PA	W. Ekland	Mar. 1/73	71-9	Dec. 1/81
08400VA	F. Morris	June 1/65	81-11	Jan. 1/82
01204VA	A. Hansen	July 1/68	78-11	Dec. 28/81
08413VA	S. McKenzie	July 1/63	83-10	Jan. 1/82
08322NW	J. Hess	Feb. 1/60	91-10	Jan. 10/82
08320NW	J. Heggie	Oct. 1/64	82-4	Jan. 12/82
08241VI	C. Carlsen	May 1/66	80-7	Jan. 16/82
08498CH	F. Thorne	Aug. 1/59	98-7	Jan. 16/82
04646VA	S. Reynolds	Nov. 1/73	72-4	Jan. 24/82
07447NW	W. Mills	Aug. 1/77	69-6	Feb. 2/82
08682VA	A. Zinger	Jan. 1/65	94-10	Jan. 26/82
00193CH	H. Work	Nov. 1/75	68-3	Feb. 10/82
06185VA	A. Mason	July 1/73	73-8	Feb. 24/82
02389CH	G. Ganderton	Dec. 1/75	64-4	Mar. 6/82
03113NW	C. Marshall	Jan. 1/77	67-2	Mar. 15/82
06277CH	W. Foulds	Jan. 1/77	66-1	Feb. 28/82