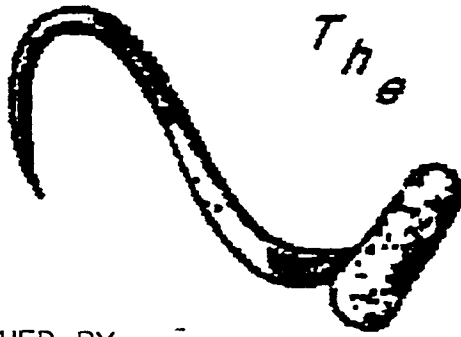


AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



Seattle ILWU

PACIFIC COAST PENSIONER'S ASSOCIATION

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VOLUME 2 - No. 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRED BERG
DEL CASTLE
ART MINK
DICK MOORK

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS -- 12 noon -- March 7

April 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Dick Moork

January 28-29, 1994 will go down as historic dates in our state and, in at least one aspect, the annals of our country. The ILWU pensioners didn't plan it that way, but it certainly did turn out to be true. I feel sure that we can expect continuing and greater benefits from the Bridges Chair in the coming years. There is one thing for sure. The ILWU and the PCPA, particularly the Seattle Club (we are entitled to some braggin' rights) can be proud of their contributions that made this historic event possible.

It all started at the 1992 PCPA Convention, shortly after the dedication of the Harry Bridges Chair, when the Southern California delegation brought in a resolution that members of the PCPA be asked to contribute to a fund to have a bust cast of Harry Bridges, to be presented to the UofW. The membership came through.

January 28, 1994 was selected as the date that the bust would be presented. Since guests from up and down the Pacific Coast would be invited, Professor David Olson, Holder of the Chair in Labor Studies, set about organizing, not only the dedication on Jan. 28, but a labor conference on the 29th. In addition to this, Prof. Olson (hereafter to be known as SuperProf) made arrangements for the executive board of the PCPA to hold our semi-annual meeting on the UofW campus on the 27th.

The board held their meeting beginning on the 27th and adjourning at noon on the 28th. At 2 PM, the 28th, a large crowd assembled at the Allen Library on the UofW campus. Together, UofW President Wm. Gerberding and PCPA President Jim Foster unveiled the bust.

Following the acceptance, Dr. Gerberding made a speech which can only be classified as an indictment of the actions of government agencies during the years of the anti-communist hysteria which rocked our nation. He spoke specifically to the actions of the UofW during the late 40s, when they fired tenured professors for their alleged political beliefs. These actions by the UofW administration left the school a virtual intellectual

eunuch for a full generation.

In speaking, although he had no part in the matter, Gerberding offered up an apology and a fervent hope that it would never happen again. It can only happen again if we let it happen. To all knowledgeable people present, this speech was historic in that it was a first. President Gerberding deserves our most sincere thanks and our support for his candid and courageous words.

The conference on the following day was titled, appropriately, "Harry Bridges and the Tradition of Dissent Among Waterfront Workers." The panel included 3 labor historians, two of whom are writing biographies of Harry; Nikki Bridges, Harry's widow; our own Sister Jean Gundlach, who was largely responsible for the historic content of the unveiling ceremony (more later); Loc. 19s Martin Jugum, Pete Grassi of Local 13 and Jesse Stranahan of Local 40, three veterans of the good fight; Fred Haley of Brown & Haley Candy Co. and past member of the Tacoma School Board, who spoke on a like educational abomination in Tacoma during the late 1940s; and noted Federal Judge Jack Tanner, whose long shoreman father, Ernie, was a long time Tacoma docker who was very very instrumental in bringing the Tacoma local into the ILWU family. Professor Olson moderated.

It is this writer's opinion that these two days of activities were not only extremely significant in their historic significance, but were further evidence of the very meaning and importance of the collective sacrifices made in endowing the Harry Bridges Chair and the heretofore ignored common interests of the academic world and the world of labor. It cannot be denied that one of the truest expressions of democracy lies in unions such as the ILWU and, likewise, it cannot be denied that the only way that education can flourish is within a framework of democracy. It is a message that should not be overlooked in this age of misinformation concerning labor, trade unions and our educational system.

BALANCED BUDGETS AND UNBALANCED MINDS

Against all possible logic, the U.S. Senate may pass the "Balanced Budget Amendment" in the very near future. We lived through 12 years of quadrupling of our national debt by the vicious and failed policies of Reagan-Bush. None of this debt was added at the behest of the American people -- all of it was added at the expense of the American people, and a huge portion of it in secret.

Now, the same people responsible for this monumental orgy of spending and deceit, along with some of our "neo liberals" who have found electoral gold in the causes of the right-wing, have decided to stiff the public once again. This is what a balanced budget amendment (BBA) would mean:

Experts warn that the BBA, for starters, would mean 12%, or \$1000 cut in annual Social Security pensions. The politicians have acquired a habit (directly from Reagan-Bush) of referring to Social Security as an "entitlement". Social Security was enacted as a birthright.

not as a gift and its coffers were supposed to be safe from their greedy fingers. Remember, we paid for our Social Security pensions and, in addition, we were not responsible for the ill-gained debt.

If, as is the desire of its author (Sen. Paul Simon, (D-IL), BBA takes effect in 1999 (all states must ratify it), Medicare will be cut by \$32 billion and Medicaid will suffer a cut of \$35 billion.

Meanwhile, you and I are paying for the over \$500 billion tab for these same people's errors (if they can be called errors) in the savings and loan abomination.

For God's sake, call Senators Murray and Gorton and tell them that you oppose a balanced budget amendment. The road to a balanced budget begins with responsible legislators, not by increasing the suffering of the poor people. Tell them the budget and debt that concerns you the most is the one that involves your pay or pension check and the groceries on your family's table.

UNION vs NON-UNION

According to the latest report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, union workers earned \$235 more per week than non-union workers. This includes all workers, production ("Blue-collar") and service. Blue-collar union members outearned their non-union counterparts by a whopping \$392 a week, or over \$20,000 a year. This may seem like a very large difference but, when all fringe benefits, few of which are received by non-union workers, are factored in, it is understandable.

The Bureau's study does not look into things such as job security, fair hiring practices, grievance machinery, personal dignity and self respect, or any of the other intangibles which are the inherent part of being a union member. These figures come from a thorough and unbiased study by a government agency and not a rigged poll.

This could possibly explain the all out corporate attack on labor unions.

IMAGE MAKERS

The Florida Orange Juice Commission seems to have a continuing problem keeping a spokesperson. First, they hired Anita Bryant, the Christian gay-basher. The heat got too great so she was fired for being too 'controversial'. They then hired native son, Burt Reynolds and he sufficed until his and Loni's marital brouhahas became too embarrassing. He was fired for the same reason as Bryant. Too 'controversial'. The Commission, with an enormous amount of corporate determination, has named a new spokesperson.

Learning from their experience with controversial people, the Commission has hired radio's sweet talkin' but non-controversial Rush Limbaugh to be their latest spokesperson.

Lawton Chiles, Florida's governor, has asked the obvious question; "If Florida orange juice tastes so good, why did the Florida Orange Juice Commission appoint Rush Limbaugh, the "Baron of Bad Taste", as the spokesperson for their product?"

A BONA FIDE CELEBRITY AMONGST US!

In a story related to the Bridges' Bust dedication and the ensuing Saturday conference, our own Sister Jean Gundlach, who live up north on the Tulalip Reservation, phoned the Everett Herald and gave them what for because they had not covered the ceremonies. At first, their reaction was "Who the hell are you?". When she told them that she had been Secretary to the Coast Committee and worked for Harry Bridges, they immediately offered to send out a reporter and photographer.

For some background on this story; Jean's brother, Ralph Gundlach, had been one of the professors purged in the 1948 witch hunt at the UofW. Shortly after the dedication of the Bridges' Chair, Jean had sent a letter to UW Pres. Wm. Gerberding, in which she explained her brother's case and noted that the university had never acknowledged their guilt in this matter (universities usually don't do that). This is the letter referred to by Dr. Gerberding as "a beautiful, wrenchingly sad letter", and which prompted Pres. Gerberding to make his historic statement on the occasion of the dedication of the bust.

Back to the story; The Everett Herald sent out a reporter and cameraman to Jean's home and the result was an absolutely great article in the Sunday, February 13 edition of the Everett Herald. Not only that, accompanying the article is an 8"x10" photograph of Jean and her pet Siberian Sabre-Tooth tiger in her living room --- in living color.

Jean has told me that the reporter, apparently a fan of Bridges and the ILWU, in doing his job, wanted to focus the story on her and not the occasion for which she called the Herald. She says that she explained that to the reporter and, consequently, the article is one of the best that this writer has read concerning this subject matter. We all know the usual treatment trade unions especially the ILWU and anything or anybody connected with it, receive from the media. The article and photo are posted in the pension club and the hiring hall.

Sister Gundlach is to be congratulated on her insistence that the article should not be only about her, but also about things she stood for and revered.

Thank you, Jean ---- you did us a great service.

COMMENTS OF A CANADIAN DOCTOR

Reprinted from Public Citizen Health Research Group's HEALTH LETTER

"We Americans have been living with our health care 'system' for so long that we take it for granted, warts and all, and indeed tend to overlook the warts even while complaining about them. How does this system appear to an alien - not one from another galaxy, but one from next door? A Canadian physician, temporarily pursuing studies in public health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD and currently working with Public Citizen's Health Research Group, has provided this alien's eye view that may help put our own thinking about health care into sharper focus.

"I just don't get it. Health care in America and the present debate regarding its reform don't make any sense to me - no way. Having grown up in Canada and gone to medical school and practiced there, I got my first exposure to American medicine in 1992 when I crossed the border to study public health. Even now, with a year's stateside experience under my belt, I am still utterly baffled by what seems to be incompatibility between apparent fundamentals of the U.S. health care system and its professed goal of improving American health."

"My reaction is by no means unique; several other Canadian doctors alongside whom I am studying are equally puzzled. Many Americans have tried diligently and patiently to explain their system to us but we are still perplexed. And to compound perplexity, even while we were struggling to understand the 'American' system of health care we were challenged from every side to defend the Canadian one. This was not totally unexpected, but the overload of misinformation among Americans about Canadian health care definitely was. Let me explain several reasons why U.S. health care is so confusing to Canadians and try to correct some of the most common falsehoods regarding our system."

FIRST, THE U.S.

"There seems to be a compulsion to link **health care** and **employment**; why? What has being employed have to do with need for health care? Don't the jobless also get sick? It seems to me that if you are so unlucky as to become ill enough to require health care, this may limit your opportunities for current or future employment. Those who need health care the most (for example, the chronically ill) are less likely than healthy people to be employed. President Clinton, for all his work on reform, is insistent on retaining this aspect of the status quo. Would someone please explain, in clear and simple terms, how this linkage tends to improve American's health?"

"This leads to a second point: Why are there separate

"It is dangerous to be right when the government is wrong."

Voltaire

health programs for different groups: gold-plated plans for the affluent, more meager plans for the less well-off Medicaid for the poor (some of the poor, to be strictly accurate), Medicare for the elderly and disabled? After all, people fall victim to different ailments according to age, sex, and economic status but all are susceptible to getting sick and needing care. With different programs that are at best tenuously coordinated, many people can and do fall into the cracks. Fragmenting health plans does nothing I can see about insuring the public's health."

"The most perplexing thing to me about American health care is this: why don't Americans demand that adequate health care be defined as a universal human right? America has led the world in establishing rights to many things, notably in the 1776 declaration of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" even though the right of liberty was formally abridges for a substantial part of its population for more than a century. Is it not time for a 'right' to adequate health care, extended to and enjoyed by all?"

And Now Canada

"If America is to have a real debate about health care reform, the discussion cannot afford to be muddled up by misperceptions propagated by any side. Canada's system has become a hot topic of debate, which has caught most Canadians off guard. This attention to our much smaller society may be flattering, but the inaccuracies involved are disturbing. When Americans begin to talk with me about health care in Canada, I find myself asking: Is this my country they're talking about? It serves to only confuse Americans (and incidentally Canadians who watch American TV) to allow these untruths to persist. Let me clarify some of the most flagrant errors."

"I have often heard it said that **"Canadians can't choose their own doctor."** Balderdash! Canadians have the opportunity to see the doctor of their choice, not only in their own province but anywhere in the country. If a patient doesn't like the care a family doctor is providing, he or she can simply walk across the street and patronize another practitioner. Government insurance picks up the tab no matter what."

"Another preposterous statement is that **"Canadians hate their system."** Nothing could be further from the truth. Canadian politicians often refer to the system as a 'sacred trust'; by broad consensus it is the most popular government program ever introduced in Canada. Parenthetically, Canadians don't suffer government ministrations gladly -- it is as hard for a program to gain wide spread popularity in Canada as in the U.S. Canadian's contentment with their system was confirmed by a 1990 study in which **10 industrialized nations were ranked according to popular satisfaction with health care; Can-**

(next page)

"Liberals feel unworthy of their possessions. Conservatives feel they deserve everything they've stolen."

Mort Sahl

ada led the list, and the U.S. was tail-end Charlie."

"Next in the litany of falsehoods is that "doctors are government employees." Not so; Canadian doctors are very much independent practitioners; they can decide where they want to work, if they want to associate with a hospital, what hours they will keep, which patients they will see. Governments do not make these choices for them. However, instead of sending claims to a multitude of different insurers, they send them only to one, the provincial government. Payment rates for the varying services are set by negotiation between the governments and medical associations of the various provinces."

"Canadians "wait in line for everything: wrong again. For the vast majority of services required by Canadians there are at most minimal waits. Most cities have an abundant supply of primary care physicians (with available lab and x-ray equipment) to take care of urgent problems and provide preventive care. Surgical waiting lists have received the most attention. What is given little notice, however, is the fact that surgery is prioritized by its urgency. For instance, Canadians have no fear that if they require an emergency appendectomy or a C-section, they will get it in timely fashion. However, they also realize that if they want a bunion removed (which they may have had for several years), they will likely wait several months. It is a tradeoff that only a few have trouble making."

"These are only a few very obvious examples of the mythology about Canada's health care system; there are many more. It is not my intention to instruct America on how to change its health care system: that's up to Americans to decide. What is unfair -- and unfair to Americans in particular - is that they are not getting the straight facts on which to make judgments about what the most important components of their health care system should be. Many Canadians feel relieved that Canada, unlike the U.S., has a system that provides equal access to all. Although many Canadians are tempted to gloat, Canada is being driven to consider many health care reforms of its own mainly because Canada is much poorer than the U.S.. But, when push comes to shove, if I become unfortunate enough to need serious medical attention, I would high-tail it as fast as I could back home to Canada."

GROUP HEALTH SELLS OUT! ! ! by Del Castle

It is reliably reported that Group Health, once the proud cooperative medical care plan of the Northwest, now an HMO - looking and acting more like a corporation, has endorsed the Clinton "managed competition" health care plan. It is also reported that they are even willing to accept the Cooper plan, which is no better, if not worse, than the status quo.

This, while the single-payer plan, sponsored by Jim McDermott, is recognized by all knowledgeable persons as the only sensible and least costly program. It has been proven such by the Canadian plan which has worked successfully and most cost effectively for years (See 'Comments of a Canadian doctor', elsewhere in this issue).

We are sure that most Group Health members and most union members are in favor of the single-payer plan. It

is simple, it is the least expensive and it is the only plan that guarantees universal coverage without allowing doctors, insurance carriers and drug companies to control it and exploit the plan for super-profits, which ultimately are paid by the taxpayer.

Our union and pensioners are on record countless times in caucus and convention as supporting the single-payer health care plan. In addition, a resolution which is directed to the group health membership urging them to reject their present policy (which was formulated from the top by Phil Nudelman and the rest of his CEO types) and to support single-payer is being presented to the Local 19 membership and this club for approval.

Please attend the next meeting and voice your support for the McDermott bill, the only single-payer health care bill.

FLASH! ! ! FLASH! ! ! FLASH! ! !

Olson honorary member of PCPA

The PCPA executive board, in its January meeting in Seattle, inducted Professor David Olson, holder of the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies, as an honorary member of the PCPA. This honor is not given lightly and David Olson received a unanimous vote of the board.

The board discussed his contributions and achievements during his tenure as Chair and, especially his superhuman efforts in making the January 28th and 29th such a howling success.

In addition, the Seattle ILWU Pension Club, in their February meeting, voted unanimously to give Prof. Olson an honorary membership in the Seattle Club.

David Olson has also been named as the 1994 Distinguished Labor History Lecturer by the Labor Archives and Research Center at San Francisco State University. In addition, he has been nominated for the 1994 Maritime Achievement Award (Maritime Man of the Year) in Seattle.

"Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber."

Plato

"Your public servants serve you right"

Adlai Stevenson

FINAL DISPATCH

DICK KING ----- Local 19
LEON SMITH ----- Local 19
JENNY PETERSON ---- Widow of Chris
MARGUERITE BEE -- Widow of Carleton
ISABEL PETERS ---- Widow of Darwin
STEVE URLEVICH ----- Local 19

VICKY FOSTER

Widow of PCPA President, Jim Foster

MORE ON HEALTH CARE

As time goes by, it is easy to see the strategy of the opponents of health care progress. First, they are trying to ignore the fact that there is a single-payer bill on the table. About every two months, the media reports that HR 1200, the McDermott-Conyers single-payer health care act has secured more support and then they go about their business of confusing the people.

They are trying to leave the impression that the best health care alternative is Clinton's "managed competition". Actually, "managed competition" is the NAFTA of health care reform. It does call for universal coverage but leaves the insurance companies in charge.

Now, we have a new kid-on-the-block, a bill introduced by Rep, Jim Cooper (D-Tenn) which can only be described as the GATT of health care reform. This bill not only leaves the insurance companies in charge, but specifically excludes universal coverage and leaves the responsibility of picking up the health care tab to the workers. This bill in addition to not being progressive, is actually worse than the status quo. This writer is of the opinion that the Cooper bill is drafted this poorly in the hopes of it being a stalking horse for "managed competition". If single-payer is ignored, we would have

WHY SO MUCH ON HEALTH CARE?

Because the debate on health care reform is now heating up and because indications are that some very powerful forces are out to thwart any attempts at meaningful reform, we have filled this issue with material on the issue. We hope that we can clarify some obvious questions concerning health care reform and that we can generate some positive action toward gaining this much-neglected birthright.

The age-old dream of the American people to attain freedom from the specter of needless physical suffering and crushing financial debt because of the lack of this birthright is in dire jeopardy. Just when we fought so hard in the last presidential campaign, thinking that we had won health care reform through the ballot box, we find that we have to redouble our efforts to force compliance with campaign promises.

The people of this country neither asked for, nor

EXTRA! ! -SEATTLE P-I PRAISES "SINGLE-PAYER"- EXTRA! !

In a carefully worded editorial of 2/21/94, entitled "McDermott gets a little support.", the Seattle Post-Intelligencer gave the single-payer health care reform program the next thing to a glowing endorsement.

"It's been our inclination throughout the early going of the health care reform debate to believe that the best approach of all -- a single-payer system formulated by Washington's U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott -- is being largely left out of the discussion." wrote the P-I editors. To our knowledge, this is the first time a major commercial media outlet has done so. This certainly is a major boost for single-payer and should give all of us cause to celebrate and redouble our commitment to the struggle for single-payer. It might just so happ-

only these two options and who would want the Cooper bill?

In the past couple of weeks, HR 1200 the single-payer bill has picked up the support of two highly respected organizations; The American College of Surgeons, which can hardly be called biased in favor of the health care consumer, and the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which says that single-payer is the most cost effective of the options.

With the addition of these auspicious and independent groups to the growing list of endorsements and the more than 90 congressional co-sponsors, we are getting closer to achieving a decent health care reform bill.

Word has it that a single-payer initiative has enough signatures to get on the California ballot and that its backers are confident of victory come election day. If this happen, what do you think will be the reaction of Congress in response to the most populace state going single-payer. A victory in California may well spell success for single-payer nationwide.

As ILWU members, we can proudly say that we have not wavered (as some union leaders have) in our insistence on a single-payer format in our health care reform. To waver before the fight has started is to concede defeat.

desire "managed competition" or any variation thereof. The people of this country have shown, through countless opinion polls, that they want universal and accessible coverage, the lowering of medical costs through elimination of the administrative red tape incurred by medical insurance companies and by the notorious price-gouging of the pharmaceutical companies. They have also shown that they overwhelmingly prefer the right to choose their health care provider. The above are not attainable with "managed competition" nor the recently introduced Cooper Bill. They are attainable only through a single-payer health care bill.

Contact your Congress member and insist that he/she support HR 1200, the McDermott Bill, the only single-payer health care bill in existence. In addition, we want you at the March meeting to support a resolution directed to the membership of Group Health. The problem with Group Health is covered in this issue.

en that there is hope.

We have maintained from the beginning that HR 1200, the McDermott bill, must stay on the table in order to affect the most preferable negotiated outcome of the health care debate. That outcome will determine exactly what options Congress will vote upon. If single-payer is not an option, the insurance companies win -- the people lose.

In the editorial, McDermott is quoted as saying, "While President Clinton and Congressman Cooper squabble over which of them can come up with the best plan for insurance companies, the evidence continues to grow that single-payer is the best plan for everyone else." I'm sure we couldn't have said it any better ourselves.

THE REALITY OF NAFTA

by Fred Berg

- 6 -

Now that NAFTA has become law on both sides of the border, the media in our country has been putting forth propoganda to the effect that the recently ratified treaty will be of great benefit to the workers of both the U.S. and Mexico. We are given to understand that something magical will take place in Mexico; the environment will be cleaned up; the 20% rate of unemployment will go away; the drop in real wages since 1980 will be reversed; the disappearing middle class will reappear; and increased living standards will provide a huge market for U.S. goods.

But all this is belied by what took place in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas. On January 1, the day that NAFTA took effect, native people of the region seized several towns in the state and battled the Mexican army to a virtual standstill for ten days. During the fighting, they issued a proclamation stating that cheap American corn, which was freed from tariff barriers by NAFTA, would drive down the price of maize to the extent that the treaty would be a death warrant for the Indians of Mexico.

Later, during the ensuing peace negotiations, they demanded that the government address nine basic needs; land, work, food, housing, education, democracy, liberty, peace and justice. As the meetings went on, they

were also to demand a program featuring freedom of choice so that there would be some control over the burgeoning population of their country, which is now doubling every twenty-three years.

The above demands emphasize the fact that the reality in Mexico is much different than that advertised by the proponents of NAFTA. A virtual dictatorship has been in place for over 70 years and living conditions have been getting worse, not better, during that time. Presently, workers are not allowed to negotiate for higher wages. State properties have been turned over to American corporations putting thousands out of work. Income deriving from these sales of property has been used to pay off the interest on a \$100 billion debt to Wall St. Worst of all, a corrupt and uncontrolled police and military have given most people no real access to any kind of security and justice.

NAFTA is not going to change any of these conditions for the better. Only freely elected democratic governments, responsible to the needs of Mexican citizens, will be able to do so. This change can come about in only two ways; The upcoming elections in August will have to be the cleanest in Mexican history, or the revolution now starting in Chiapas will have to take the country over.

FROM:

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