



# VOICE OF THE ILWU

HONOLULU HAWAII  
LOCAL 142

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March 2003

## Work for Peace, not War

**The working class has no interest in war. Only in a stable, secure, peaceful world can the ILWU, or any other union, hope to be able to fight for and win those improvements in the lives of the members to which the trade union movement is dedicated.**

ILWU policies and actions on foreign affairs have always been built on the belief that international labor solidarity and world peace are the cornerstones of social and economic justice for all workers, including the membership of the ILWU.

The ILWU has a long and proud tradition of fighting for peace and opposing unjust wars—in the 1930s the ILWU blocked the shipment of supplies to the rising fascist movements in Europe and Asia. After World War II the union opposed escalation of the arms race and the Cold War. In the 1960s the ILWU was the first union to stand up in opposition to U.S. military

intervention in Vietnam. In the 1970s the union took a stand against U.S. involvement in the overthrow and murder of democratically elected President Salvador Allende of Chile. In the 1980s the ILWU opposed the

U.S. support of another military dictatorship in El Salvador. In the 1990s and today, the ILWU said “No” to war in the Middle East.

As a union, we believe in negotiations to solve problems between workers and

management.

In the same way, we believe that negotiations is the best way to solve problems between nations. At the same time, we believe the use of force or military power may

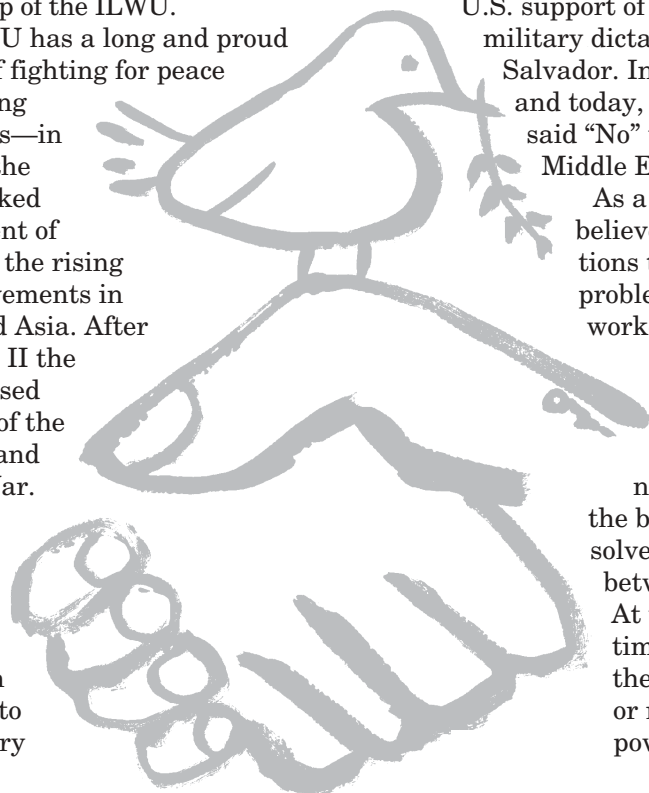
sometimes be necessary, but that force should be authorized or carried out by the United Nations and only to bring an end to aggression and to enforce the peace.

These views are clearly stated in the Declaration of Principles in the Constitution of ILWU Local 142 which calls for the union: “To join in the worldwide people’s movement against war and the causes of war, and to work for an enduring peace maintained and protected by powerful international organizations dedicated to the elimination of fascism, war and aggression.”

As Americans, we have the duty to defend the Constitution of the United States of America and to be actively involved in shaping the foreign policies of our nation to make sure our country stays true to the ideals and aspirations of the American people. We are also part of a world community, and we want our

country to be a good world citizen, not a bully and aggressor.

A series of articles on pages 2 through 5 will help educate you on the issues of war and peace.



ADDRESS LABEL

**For more, see pages 2-5: War, a threat to freedom and democracy; Military spending dominates budget; Should unions take a position on foreign policy?**

## Hotel workers lose jobs in SARS panic

**The world’s medical community appears to be winning the battle against SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). Once it became known that the virus is spread by close person-to-person contact and appropriate precautions against infection were taken, very few secondary infections occurred and it was possible to stop the spread of the disease. Those who do contract SARS are actually less likely to die than people who catch the flu—the mortality rate for SARS is less than 6 percent while the mortality from flu for the United States is around 8 percent.**

The actual probability of catching SARS and dying is extremely low—it’s about the same odds as winning the jackpot on a slot machine.

Yet the fear of SARS is threatening the livelihood of thousands of hotel and other workers in China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Toronto, Canada.

In Hong Kong, with 1,488 confirmed cases of SARS and 109 deaths, 60,000 hotel and restaurant workers have been laidoff as airlines cut flights and travelers cancel plans to visit the city. Tourist travel to Singapore with only 192 cases of SARS dropped by more than half in April. Most of the 140 SARS cases in

Canada are in Toronto, where hotelworkers are also losing jobs and work opportunity.

Thousands of hotelworkers in Toronto, Canada, face longer unemployment and deep cuts in work opportunity as fear of SARS prompted travelers to cancel trips to the city. In Toronto, most hotels layoff workers over the winter and begin rehiring in March and April for the busier spring and summer seasons. However, because of SARS and the U.S. war on Iraq, visitor counts for Toronto have dropped by over 20 percent and hotels have been cutting workers’ hours. About 60 percent of Toronto’s hotelworkers are unionized, members of Hotel Employees, Restaurant Employees Union Local 75. Many of the laidoff hotelworkers will not be eligible to receive unemployment insurance because of a requirement to work at least 910 hours in the last 52 weeks or 655 hours for repeat claims.

According to an article by Michael Friscolanti in the National Post of Canada, the odds of catching SARS in Toronto and dying are about one in 292,681. Sixteen people out of a population of 4.68 million in the Greater Toronto Area have died of SARS. If you’re a gambler, this is about the same odds as hitting the jackpot on a slot machine. According to Friscolanti, you are four times more likely to die of the flu and twice as likely to die from a dog bite—one in 142,279. In fact, a Toronto visitor is 205 times more likely to be killed in a car accident—one in 22,843.

Much of the panic over SARS and the economic hardships it has caused could have been avoided had people used common sense and normal precautions.

It appears that three best ways to prevent the spread of SARS (and a lot of other disease) is to stay home when you’re sick, cover your mouth when you cough, and wash your hands.

**For more, see pages 6 & 7: SARS and your workplace, what you need to know; Guidelines and Infection control**

## WORK FOR PEACE, NOT WAR

# War—A Threat to Freedom and Democracy

“Of all the enemies to liberty war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded...”

These are the words of James Madison, who is often called the “Father of the Constitution” because many of his views about government became part of the U.S. Constitution. Madison also served as the 4th President of the U.S. from 1809 to 1817.

Based on his historical research, Madison proposed a framework for government that balanced the interests of individual citizens, the states, and the national government. His proposals included the separation of powers into three branches of government and a system of checks and balances to prevent the abuse of power by any one branch, particularly by the presidency.

### To limit the abuse of power

The earlier Americans had just fought a revolutionary war to free the colonies from the absolute and arbitrary power of King George of England. The U.S. Constitution was carefully crafted to limit and prevent the abuse of power by an absolute ruler. In particular, they wanted to take

the power to declare war away from the President—so it is only Congress that has the power to **declare** war. The President is given the power, as commander in chief, to **conduct** the war, after Congress declares war.

### Using war for their own ends

Throughout history, Madison observed that rulers used war, the threat of war, and even the pretext of defending against war to maintain a standing army and to concentrate power in the hands of the executive branch.

[For the entire debates go to: [http://www.constitution.org/dfc/dfc\\_0000.htm](http://www.constitution.org/dfc/dfc_0000.htm)]

### War, armies, debt and taxes

After the Constitution was adopted, Madison explained in more detail how war can be a threat to American democracy and freedom. War leads to armies; armies lead to debt and taxes. The discretionary power of the president is extended, including the power to dole out rewards and favors and the power to seduce the minds of the public.

“In time of actual war, great discretionary powers are constantly given to the Executive magistrate. Constant apprehension of war has the same tendency to render the head too large for the body. A standing military force, with an overgrown Executive, will not long be safe companions to liberty. The means of defense against foreign danger have been always the instruments of tyranny at home. Among the Romans it was a standing maxim, to excite a war whenever a revolt was apprehended. Throughout all Europe, the armies kept up under the pretext of defending, have enslaved, the people.”

—James Madison, June 29, 1787, in the Federal Convention.

“Of all the enemies to liberty war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded, because it comprises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes; and armies, and debts, and taxes are the known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few. In war, too, the discretionary power of the Executive is extended; its influence in dealing out offices, honors, and emoluments is multiplied; and all the means of seducing the minds, are added to those of subduing the force, of the people. The Constitution expressly and exclusively vests in the Legislature the power of declaring a state of war [and] the power of raising armies... A delegation of such powers [to the president] would have struck, not only at the fabric of our Constitution, but at the foundation of all well organized and well checked governments. The separation of the power of declaring war from that of conducting it, is wisely contrived to exclude the danger of its being declared for the sake of its being conducted.”

—James Madison, “Political Observations” April 20, 1795

## Preamble to the Charter of UN

The United Nations was created in an effort to put an end to war—particularly after the devastation and millions of dead from World War I and World War II.

### We the Peoples of the United Nations Determined

to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

### And for these Ends

to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors, and

to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

to ensure by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

### Have Resolved to Combine our Efforts to Accomplish these Aims

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.

Article 1 - The Purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
4. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

(signed on June 26, 1945)



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WORK FOR PEACE, NOT WAR

Only Congress has the power to declare war

The Constitution of the United States Article I. Section 8. The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water; To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years; To provide and maintain a navy; To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; To provide for

calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions; To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the states respectively, the appointment of the officers, and the authority of

training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

Article II. Section 2. The President shall be commander in chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States . . .

The President has the power to repel attacks

The Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787

The U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power "to declare war." An earlier draft had the wording "to make war." This was changed with the understanding that "make" war was understood to "conduct" war which was more a function of the Executive branch or presidency. in other words, Congress makes policy, the President carries out the policy.

The Constitution was the work of representatives from the 13 former colonies who met for five months in 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Notes on the debates and discussion of the delegates can be found at: www.constitution.org/dfc/dfc\_0000.htm.

it stood very well. The Executive should be able to repel, and not to commence, war. "Make" is better than declare, the latter narrowing the power too much.

Mr. GERRY never expected to hear, in a republic, a motion to empower the Executive alone to declare war.

Mr. Oliver ELLSWORTH: There is a material difference between the cases of making war and making peace. It should be more easy to get out of war, than in to it. War also is a simple and overt declaration, peace attended with intricate and secret negotiations.

Mr. George MASON was

against giving the power of war to the Executive, because not safely to be trusted with it; or to the Senate, because not so constructed as to be entitled to it. He was for clogging, rather than facilitating war; but for facilitating peace.

On the remark by Mr. King that "make" war might be understood to "conduct" it which was an Executive function, Mr. Ellsworth gave up his objection, and the vote of Connecticut was changed to-ay. Passed by a vote of

8 to 1.

Peace treaties authorized by Senate September 7, 1787:

Mr. MADISON then moved to authorize a concurrence of two-thirds of the Senate to make treaties of peace, without the concurrence of the President. The President, he said, would necessarily derive so much power and importance from a state of War, that he might be tempted, if authorized, to impede a treaty of peace.

U.S. Declaration of Independence

The U.S. Declaration of Independence reminds us that the people must stand above the government—that government derives its power from the people, and the people have the right to change their government.

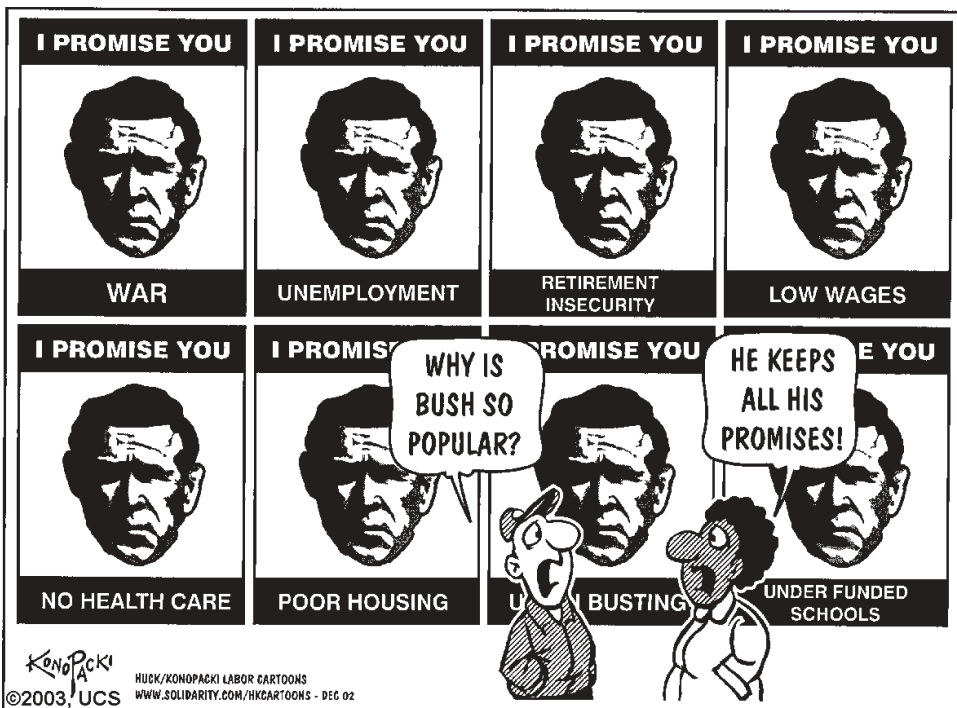
IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America. When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. —That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. —From the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

President can repel, not commence attacks

On August 17, 1787:

Mr. James MADISON and Mr. Elbridge GERRY moved to insert "declare," striking out "make" war; leaving to the Executive the power to repel sudden attacks.

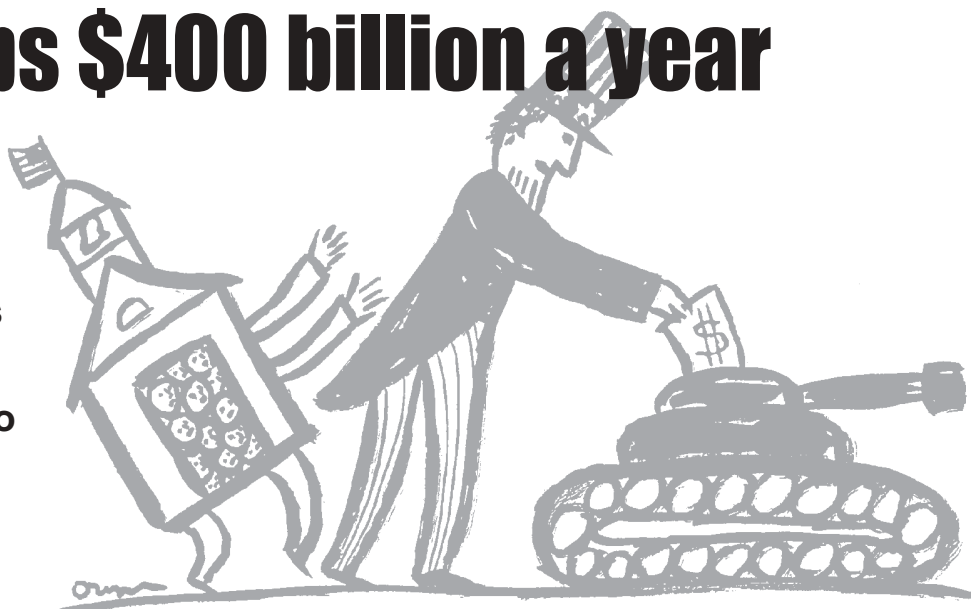
Mr. Roger SHERMAN thought



WORK FOR PEACE, NOT WAR

# U.S. military spending tops \$400 billion a year

While most nations have reduced their military spending—including Russia, which has cut its military spending from \$300 billion in 1988 to \$45 billion today—the U.S. continues to divert vast sums of our tax dollars to increase military spending. The 2003 military budget of \$414 billion is almost equal to the \$451 billion that the rest of the world combined spends on defense, and 18 times more than the \$22 billion spent by China.



The United States is the only nation to have 250,000 troops stationed in 144 countries around the world, armed with the latest arsenal of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons of mass destruction. The U.S. has repeatedly used this military power to extend and protect U.S. corporate interests around the world.

### Bush uses 9/11 for own agenda

President Bush has used 9/11 to increase the military budget by 37%, very little of which is used to fight terrorism. Most of the defense budget is going to U.S. corporations as lucrative defense contracts for the next generation of advanced weapons, such as the F-22 fighter plane that costs \$100

million a piece, the F-35 joint strike fighter, a new missile defense system, more attack submarines, more B-2 bombers, Comanche helicopters, and naval cruisers. All this is aimed at building the military capability to fight two large scale wars at the same time.

The U.S. contributes to armed conflict and international instability by supplying more than half of the weapons in the world. The U.S. sold over \$152 billion in weapons since 1990 to 160 of the 190 countries—many to oppressive governments that maintain the poverty, injustice, and hopelessness that breeds desperation and makes the U.S. the target of terrorism.

### Military Spending dominates budget

The United States spends a huge amount of money for military purposes—an estimated \$414 billion for 2003 and probably more after adding the cost of the war on Iraq and Afghanistan. This is almost equal to the \$450 billion spent by the rest of the world combined.

U.S. military spending also dwarfs what the federal government spends on other programs such as education, health, or housing. The chart below reveals military spending will account for 55 percent of the entire discretionary budget.

The federal budget is divided into two parts—discretionary and mandatory. Mandatory spending is what the government is already obligated to pay for Social Security, Medicare, food stamps, pensions for federal workers, and interest payments on the national debt. The discretionary budget can be changed from year to year. So when President Bush wants to cut taxes and raise military spending at the same

time, it means that other discretionary programs must be cut—such as education, environment, or transportation.

### Military spending—How much is enough?

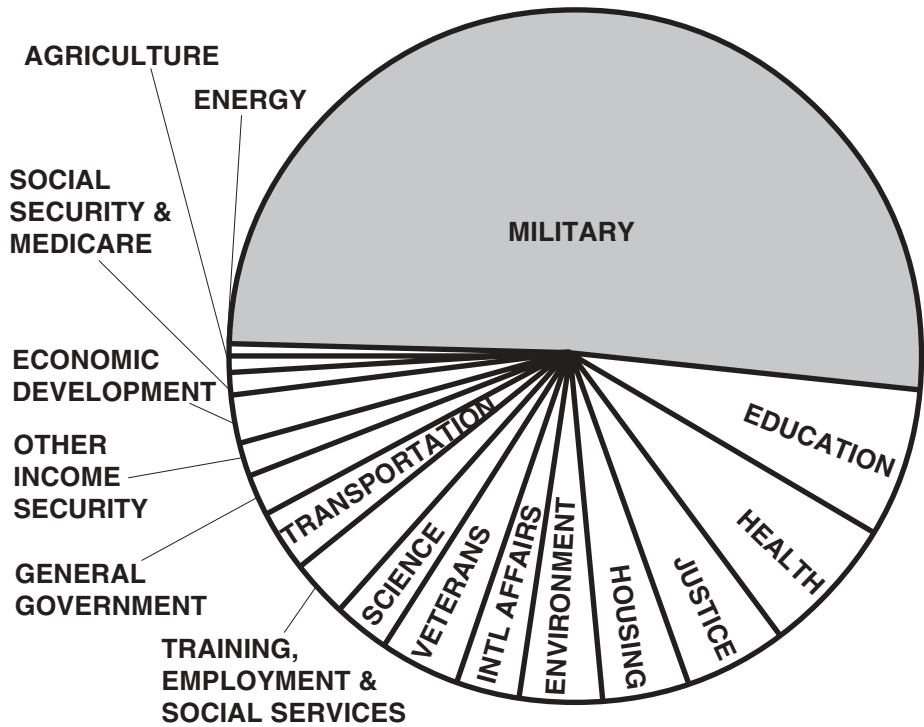
The United States spends many times more on its military than any other country in the world. In addition, President Bush wants to increase military spending every year to \$490 billion by the year 2008.

The U.S. has also formed military alliances with other countries—“Allies” in the chart below. This includes 18 countries in NATO and separate alliances with countries such as Japan, Australia, and South Korea. This means the combined military spending of the U.S. and its allies is over \$625 billion a year.

In comparison, the handful of countries most often mentioned by President Bush or the State Department as potential enemies spend less than \$12 billion on defense. These countries are called “rogue” in the chart below.

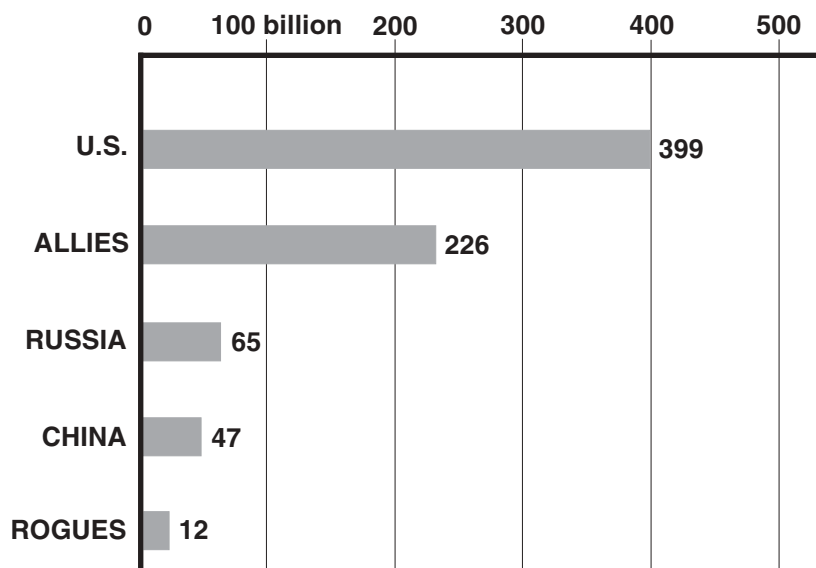
## Is this how you want your tax dollars spent?

### U.S. tax dollars: military spending dominates



Based on data from the Office of Management and Budget, White House. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2003/fct.html>

### Comparative military spending in 2002: U.S. and Allies\* vs. Rogue\*\*



\* Allies include other NATO countries with which the U.S. has formed alliances.  
 \*\* So-called “rogue” or “outlaw” countries on this chart are: Cuba, Iraq, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria.



WORK FOR PEACE, NOT WAR

# The Problem of Undeclared Wars

Since taking office in January 2001, George W. Bush has led the U.S. into two wars—the war against Afghanistan and the war against Iraq.

The war against the Taliban government of Afghanistan started on October 7, 2001, and two months later on December 7, 2001, the U.S. declared victory. However, 18 months later and at a cost of over \$10 billion and climbing, the war is still going on. The U.S. and the United Kingdom continues to fly bombing raids and has over 13,000 troops on the ground. Al-Qaeda and the Taliban continue to operate in Afghanistan and Osama Bin Laden remains at large. The main reason for the war against the Taliban was because they refused to take action against Al-Qaeda and Bin Laden without proof they were involved with the September 11 attacks.

The Pentagon has yet to issue data on civilian casualties, but independent sources estimate that over 3,000 Afghan civilians were killed as the result of U.S. military actions. The latest

deaths occurred this April 2003, when a laser-guided “smart” bomb missed its target and blew up a house, killing 11 civilians.

The war against Iraq started on March 19, 2003, and continues to this date. Cost of the war so far is over \$20 billion. Civilian casualties are also estimated at over 3,000. The purpose of the war started with preventing a possible future threat to the U.S. by disarming Iraq of weapons of mass destruction; then it became removing Sadaam Hussein and the Baathist Party from power; then it became freedom for the Iraqi people. The administration’s latest explanation is that the attack on Iraq was done to send certain countries “a message.”

**No war declared**

Both wars were not declared by Congress. In fact, the last war declared by Congress was in 1941 during World War II. Since then,

the U.S. President has conducted 12 undeclared wars in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Iraq in 1990, Somalia, Haiti, Rwanda, Kosovo, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and Iraq in 2003.

Instead of a declaration of war, Congress passed a joint resolution that appears to go overboard in giving President Bush a blanket authorization to use force against any nation, organization, or person with any connection to the attacks of September 11, 2001. It states:

“The President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized,

committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons.”



## Should the union take a position on foreign policy?

Harry Bridges, one of the founding leaders and first president of the ILWU, clearly stated the reason why unions should be concerned about foreign policy in his report to the 1947 ILWU Convention where he said:

There are many who hold to the belief that in matters of foreign concern and of foreign policy we should let well enough alone. There are plenty who think a union should not speak out, fight for or criticize the foreign policy of our government; that it should be a matter of our government, right or wrong, in matters of foreign policy.

We have never adhered to that belief. And we shouldn't. If we had, we would never have taken in years gone by a position on the shipments of war materials to Japan. We would never have engaged in the boycott of Mussolini during the rape of Ethiopia. We would never have been among the first in 1933 to snap a boycott of German goods when Hitler ascended as top man in Germany. We never would have take the position that we did in support of and in sympathy with the Loyalists of Spain. And the reasons are simple: the question of our own welfare, our own interests, our own existence.

Bridges urged union members to take a stand for world peace, even though he and the union were constantly attacked as being un-American and un-patriotic for opposing war.

We can play a part in the struggle for world peace and we can maintain our record of adhering to principle, or practicing democracy, of speaking out and not being afraid of what anybody might think for the time being. Because the struggles of people all over the world to remove the threat of war, to remove the terrific burdens of armaments, are more and more coming to the front. The expenditures from armaments in many countries of the world will be thrown off by the people with violence if ways to reduce those burdens are not found by peaceful means.

—1959 ILWU Convention



(Top) ILWU founder Harry Bridges at the ILWU Hall in Honolulu; (Above) Pro-peace demonstrators in Oakland include ILWU Local 8 members.



## SAFETY &amp; HEALTH ON THE JOB

**SARS and your workplace: What you need to know**

Are ILWU members in the healthcare and hotel industry at a greater risk of catching SARS? There are some risks and ILWU members should know the basic precautions and safety protections to avoid catching SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome).

As of April 23, 2003, the Hawaii Department of Health reported there are no confirmed cases of SARS in Hawaii. However, five suspect

cases, that meet case definition, have been reported to the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention. All individuals have fully recovered or are expected to do so. The State

Department of Health has increased surveillance efforts and is maintaining daily contact

with medical facilities to monitor the situation.

SARS has been getting a lot

of attention in the media, and is very serious because of how easily it spreads and the severity of its symptoms. However, the

common flu or influenza is actually more deadly and kills more people than SARS. About

8 percent of the people who get sick with the flu die from the flu or its complications, like pneumonia. The CDC estimates about 36,000 Americans will die as the result of flu this year. In comparison, a little less than 6 percent of people with SARS have died.

Fortunately, some of the same precautions to avoid SARS should also reduce the number of people who catch the flu.

**... the common flu or influenza is actually more deadly and kills more people than SARS.**

**Infection control for suspected SARS contacts**

Patients with SARS pose a risk of transmission to close household contacts and health care personnel in close contact. The duration of time before or after onset of symptoms during which a patient with SARS can transmit the disease to others is unknown. The following infection control measures are recommended for patients with suspected SARS in households or residential settings. *These recommendations are based on the experience in the United States to date and may be revised as more information becomes available.*

SARS patients should limit interactions outside the home and should not go to work, school, out-of-home child care, or other public areas until 10 days after the resolution of fever, provided respiratory symptoms are absent or improving. During this time, infection control precautions should be used, as described below, to minimize the potential for transmission.

All members of a household with a SARS patient should carefully follow recommendations for hand hygiene (e.g., frequent hand washing or use of alcohol-based hand rubs), particularly after contact with body fluids (e.g., respiratory secretions, urine, or feces). See the "Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings" for more details on hand hygiene.

Use of disposable gloves should be considered for any direct contact with body fluids of a SARS patient. However, gloves are not intended to replace proper hand hygiene. Immediately after activities involving contact with body fluids, gloves should be removed and discarded and

hands should be cleaned. Gloves must never be washed or reused.

Each patient with SARS should be advised to cover his or her mouth and nose with a facial tissue when coughing or sneezing. If possible, a SARS patient should wear a surgical mask during close contact with uninfected persons to prevent spread of infectious droplets. When a SARS patient is unable to wear a surgical mask, household members should wear surgical masks when in close contact with the patient.

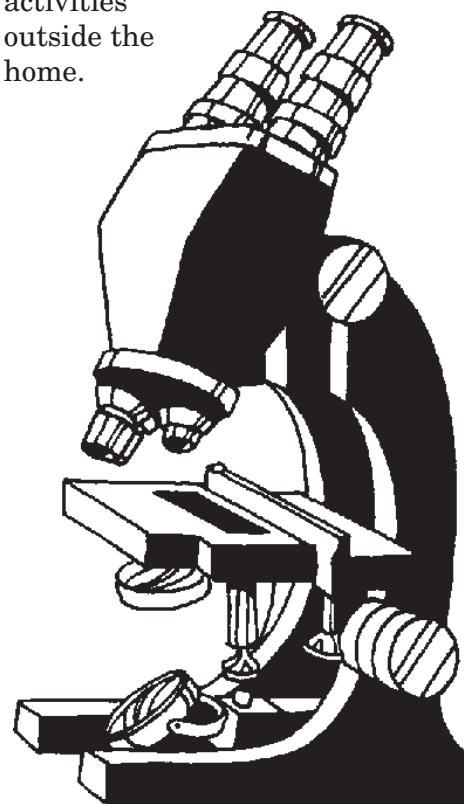
Sharing of eating utensils, towels, and bedding between SARS patients and others should be avoided, although such items can be used by others after routine cleaning (e.g., washing with soap and hot water). Environmental surfaces soiled by body fluids should be cleaned with a household disinfectant according to manufacturer's instructions; gloves should be worn during this activity.

Household waste soiled with body fluids of SARS patients, including facial tissues and surgical masks, may be discarded as normal waste.

Household members and other close contacts of SARS patients should be actively monitored by the local health department for illness.

Household members or other close contacts of SARS patients should be vigilant for the development of fever or respiratory symptoms and, if these develop, should seek healthcare evaluation. In advance of evaluation, healthcare providers should be informed that the individual is a close contact of a SARS patient. Household members or other close contacts with symptoms of SARS should follow the same precautions recommended for SARS patients.

At this time, in the absence of fever or respiratory symptoms, household members or other close contacts of SARS patients need not limit their activities outside the home.

**Areas with a high incidence of SARS**

Following are the number of SARS cases reported between November 1, 2002 and April 24, 2003.

In addition to the 15 countries below, 13 other countries reported a total of 20 SARS cases. A grand total of 4,439 people are confirmed SARS cases.

Of this number, 2,117 have fully recovered and 263 or 5.9 percent have died. This is actually lower than the 8 percent mortality rate of flu and its complications.

China .....	2,422
Hong Kong .....	1,488
Singapore .....	192
Canada .....	140
Vietnam .....	63
United States .....	37
Taiwan .....	37
Thailand .....	8
Germany .....	8
United Kingdom .....	6
France .....	5
Malaysia .....	5
Australia .....	4
Japan .....	2
Philippines .....	2

## SAFETY &amp; HEALTH ON THE JOB

**SARS: Healthcare workers may need to take some precautions**

**A large percentage of the early SARS cases have been healthcare workers who treated SARS patients before infection control precautions, such as using gloves and respirators, were instituted. Once precautions were taken, however, there were very few secondary infections and the disease was contained.**

The Center for Disease Control recommends that healthcare workers treating SARS or suspected SARS patients use personal protective equipment appropriate for standard, contact, and airborne precautions (e.g., hand hygiene, gown, gloves, and N95 respirators) in addition to eye protection. See below, Guidelines for Healthcare Workers.

These are interim guidelines which may change as more information become available, so you should check with your employer or visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/>

**Guidelines for healthcare workers**

Health-care workers caring for patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) are at risk for acquiring SARS. Health-care workers appear to have contracted the disease after close contact with people already displaying symptoms of SARS, such as high fever, coughing, and difficulty breathing.

The Center for Disease Control recommends the use of personal protective equipment appropriate for standard, contact, and airborne precautions (e.g., hand hygiene, gown, gloves, and N95 respirators) in addition to eye protection.

The transmission of SARS appears to occur mainly by direct contact with infectious material, including dispersal of large respiratory droplets. However, it is also possible that SARS can be spread through the airborne route. Accordingly, CDC has recommended the use of N-95 respirators, consistent with respiratory protection for airborne diseases, such as tuberculosis.

SARS, unlike tuberculosis, also appears to spread by direct contact with respiratory secretions, which makes touching contaminated objects a potential concern. Infectious material deposited on a respirator may cause it to become a vehicle for direct or indirect transmission. Therefore, additional infection control measures applicable to this specific situation are needed.

**Respiratory protection important**

Respirators should be used in the context of a complete respiratory protection program in accordance with OSHA regulations. This includes training and fit testing to ensure a proper seal between the respirator's sealing surface and the wearer's face. Detailed information on respirator programs, including fit test procedures can be accessed at

[www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/respiratory](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/respiratory).

Once worn in the presence of a SARS patient, the respirator should be considered potentially contaminated with infectious material, and touching the outside of the device should be avoided. Upon leaving the patient's room, the disposable respirator should be removed and discarded, followed by thorough hand washing with soap and water.

**Reuse of respirators**

If a sufficient supply of respirators is not available, healthcare facilities may consider reuse as long as the device has not been obviously soiled or damaged (e.g., creased or torn). Data on reuse of respirators for SARS are not available. Reuse may increase the potential for contamination; however, this risk must be balanced against the need to fully provide respiratory protection for healthcare personnel.

If N-95 respirators are reused for contact with SARS patients, implement a procedure for safer reuse to prevent contamination through contact with infectious droplets on the outside of the respirator.

Consider wearing a loose-fitting barrier that does not interfere with fit or seal (e.g., surgical mask, face shield) over the respirator.

Remove the barrier upon leaving the patient's room and perform hand hygiene. Surgical masks should be discarded; face shields should be cleaned and disinfected.

Remove the respirator and either hang it in a designated area or place it in a bag. Consider labeling respirators with a user's name before use to prevent reuse by another individual.

Use care when placing a used respirator on the face to ensure proper fit for respiratory protection and to avoid contact with infectious material that may be present on the outside of the mask.

Perform hand hygiene after replacing the respirator on the face.

When reusable respirators (e.g., elastomeric [rubber], powered air purifying respirators [PAPR]) are used, the reusable elements should be cleaned and disinfected after use, in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. In addition, if reusable respirators are used by more than one individual, filters must be replaced between individual users. The used filters must be safely discarded.

Respiratory protective devices with a filter efficiency of 95% or greater

(e.g., N95, N99, N100) may not be available in some settings due to supply shortages or other factors. In this situation, a surgical (procedure) mask should be worn. Surgical masks will provide barrier protection against large droplets that are considered to be the primary route of SARS transmission. However, surgical masks may not adequately protect against aerosol or airborne particles, primarily because they allow for leakage around the mask and cannot be fit tested. The mask should resist fluid penetration and fit tightly around the mouth and nose when properly applied to the face.

**For the inpatient setting**

If a suspect SARS patient is admitted to the hospital, infection control personnel should be notified immediately. Infection control measures for inpatients ([www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/isolat/isolat.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/isolat/isolat.htm)) should include:

- Standard precautions (e.g., hand hygiene); in addition to routine standard precautions, health-care personnel should wear eye protection for all patient contact.
- Contact precautions (e.g., use of gown and gloves for contact with the patient or their environment).
- Airborne precautions (e.g., an isolation room with negative pressure relative to the surrounding area and use of an N-95 filtering disposable respirator for persons entering the room).

If airborne precautions cannot be

fully implemented, patients should be placed in a private room, and all persons entering the room should wear N-95 respirators. Where possible, a qualitative fit test should be conducted for N-95 respirators; detailed information on fit testing can be accessed at <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/respiratory/oshfiles/fittesting1.html>. If N-95 respirators are not available for health-care personnel, then surgical masks should be worn. Regardless of the availability of facilities for airborne precautions, standard and contact precautions should be implemented for all suspected SARS patients.

**For the outpatient setting**

If possible, suspect SARS patients, on arrival to the outpatient or ambulatory setting, (e.g., clinic or Emergency Department [ED]), should be evaluated in a separate assessment area to determine if they meet the case definition for suspected SARS and require isolation. A surgical mask should be placed on the patient if possible.

All health-care personnel should wear N-95 respirators while taking care of patients with suspected SARS. Precautions should be used when evaluating or transporting patients (e.g., emergency medical technicians), or in any ambulatory health-care setting (e.g., ED or clinic personnel). If N-95 respirators are not available, surgical masks should be worn by personnel.

**Hotelworkers do not appear to be at any greater risk**

The initial spread of SARS outside of China has been traced to a professor from China's Guangdong province who stayed on the 9th floor of the Metropole Hotel in Hong Kong. He appears to have infected six other guests on the 9th floor, who then carried the disease and infected family members and healthcare workers in Singapore, Toronto, Hong Kong, and Hanoi.

None of the hotel's 200 workers or guests on other floors got sick. This supports the theory that SARS is spread primarily by close person-to-person contact, being coughed upon, or touching infected material.

However, ILWU hotelworkers may be at increased risk if they come into contact with guests or

co-workers who travel from a high SARS area within the last 10 days, particularly if these people have a high fever of 100.4 degrees, a cough, or difficulty breathing. See #2. High SARS areas.

In these cases, the Center for Disease Control recommends careful and frequent hand washing with soap and water, use of disposable gloves when cleaning the bathroom or eating utensils of infected persons, and use of a surgical mask when in close contact with these people. See #3. Infection control for suspected SARS contacts.

If your hotel does not have a procedure for dealing with these situations, you should call your ILWU union business agent.

**Guidelines for all workers—page 8**



# Oahu Division thanks outstanding units and members

**HONOLULU**—Oahu Division held its annual unit recognition awards night on February 21, 2003 after its Division Executive Board (DEB) meeting. The DEB meeting was the first held in the newly renovated ILWU union hall at 451 Atkinson Drive.

According to Division Director Raymond Camacho, the awards are a way of "recognizing the volunteerism of units and members that is so vital to the union's success."

Community Service awards were presented to two members from Unit 4409 - Island Movers, Inc.—Jeffrey Rapoza and Eddie Sekigawa—who volunteered as drivers for the Hawaii Foodbank. "Drivers are the people that you don't always notice, but they're there working hard until late at night," said Business Agent (BA) James Kahalewai, who presented the awards.

2002's Stewards of the Year—Abeleen Lau of Unit 4415 - Diamond Head/Nuuanu Memorial Park and Lance Kamada of Unit 4406 - The Honolulu Advertiser—were highly praised by their Business Agents. "We really counted on Abe's participation in political action," said BA Larry Ruiz. BA Dave Mori said of Kamada: "We all contribute in our own way, but there are certain individuals who are the 'go to' people, and we can depend on them no matter what."

The Most Inspirational award went to Unit 4403 - Hawaii Baking Co., which had gone through many hardships and changes in 2002. Long-time members Charles Sham and Bertram Yasui accepted the award on behalf of their unit from BA Karl Lindo. "The members have had a difficult time over the past year but stuck it out and fought to protect themselves," said Lindo. Unit treasurer Sham spoke passionately before the DEB. "The situation with Hawaii Baking underlines why it is important to have a union and to be involved in political action. If you don't have a union, you don't have a snowball's chance in hell. Remind your members—without this union we wouldn't have a voice."

The Most Valuable Pensioner award for 2002 was given to a core group of pensioners who were instrumental in getting ILWU political action information to union members. They worked tirelessly at phonebanking, stuffing envelopes and other activities.

Unit Leaders of the Year were Sharon Basmayor of Unit 4404 - Pepsi Bottling Group and George Cox of Unit 4409 - Island Movers, Inc. "If and when the day comes that Sharon is no longer there, her shoes will be hard to fill and my job will be tougher," said Mori. Kahalewai added of Cox, "George embodies the aloha spirit for us. What he does for his unit, he does from the heart."

## Unit awards

Unit 4415 - Diamond Head/Nuuanu Memorial Park won the award for Outstanding Unit with 1-25 Members. The unit benefits from highly motivated rank-and-file leadership who work out problems on the job and volunteer for Division activities whenever needed.

Unit 4409 - Island Movers, Inc. received recognition as the Outstanding Unit with 26-99 Members. Because they work at a growing company, union leaders are constantly educating new employees about the benefits of union membership.

Unit 4524 - Honolulu Airport Hotel received the Outstanding Unit with 100+ Members award. Members there took a difficult situation—no raise since 1996, foreclosure, a change in management, and lack of management—and turned it around. They now have a strong contract with no subcontracting, as well as significantly improved successorship language.

This year's Outstanding Editors were Dorothy Sakamoto from Unit 4301 - Dole Fresh Fruit Co., who received the David E. Thompson Award for Statewide Excellence, and Gordon Young and Mike Yamaguchi from Unit 4406 - The Honolulu Advertiser, who took first place honors on Oahu.



Accepting an award on behalf of pensioners who helped with ILWU political action are Bob Frietas, Eddie and Dorothy Chang, Esther Scharsch, George Dantsuka, BA Larry Ruiz, and Haruye Ichiki.



(Above) Oahu "Stewards of the Year" Lance Kamada and Abeleen Lau. (Right) Bertram Yasui and Charles Sham of Unit 4403 - Hawaii Baking Co. accept the "Most Inspirational" award on behalf of their members.



Unit 4409 - Island Movers, Inc. won three awards: Outstanding Unit 26-99 members, Male Unit Leader of the Year (George Cox), and Community Service awards to Eddie Sekigawa and Jeffrey Rapoza (above).



Female Unit Leader of the Year Sharon Basmayor of Unit 4404 - Pepsi Bottling Group.

## SAFETY & HEALTH ON THE JOB

# SARS: General guidelines for all workers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is investigating the spread of a respiratory illness called severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Because the outbreak has initially affected international travelers who have recently visited mainland China; Hong Kong; Singapore; and Hanoi, Vietnam, CDC issued a travel advisory for people traveling to those areas. You can learn more about SARS from the World Health Organization at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/links.htm#who>.

SARS is an infectious illness that appears to spread primarily by close

person-to-person contact, such as in situations in which persons have cared for, lived with, or had direct contact with respiratory secretions and/or body fluids of a person known to be a suspect SARS case. Potential ways in which infections can be transmitted by close contact include touching the skin of other persons or objects that become contaminated with infectious droplets and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Workers, who in the last 10 days have traveled to a known SARS area, or have had close contact with a co-worker or family member with suspected or probable SARS could be

at increased risk of developing SARS and should be vigilant for the development of fever (greater than 100.4° F) or respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough or difficulty breathing). If these symptoms develop you should not go to work, school, or other public areas but should seek evaluation by a health-care provider and practice infection control precautions recommended for the home or residential setting; be sure to contact your health-care provider beforehand to let them know you may have been exposed to SARS.

As with other infectious illnesses,

one of the most important and appropriate preventive practices is careful and frequent hand hygiene. Cleaning your hands often using either soap and water or waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizers removes potentially infectious materials from your skin and helps prevent disease transmission.

The routine use of personal protective equipment such as respirators, gloves, or, using surgical masks for protection against SARS exposure is currently not recommended in the general workplace outside the health-care setting.