



VOICE OF THE ILWU

HONOLULU HAWAII
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September 2005

Bush takes care of Big Business before people

Hurricane Katrina hit the coast of southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi in the early morning of August 29, 2005, as an extremely dangerous Category 4 storm with winds of 135 miles per hour. The storm caused tremendous damage and displaced over one million people from the states of Louisiana and Mississippi.

When it came to helping the victims of the hurricane, President Bush and the people he put in charge of the federal emergency response were disorganized and unprepared. They were slow to rescue the thousands of people trapped in New Orleans and provide assistance to the over one million people displaced by the hurricane.

But when it came to taking advantage of the disaster to reward his friends in big business, Bush and his

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ADDRESS LABEL

CORRECTION

August 2005 VOICE—Page 2, photo caption. Ron Walzer's unit was incorrectly identified; he is a member at Unit 1519 - Outrigger Keauhou Beach Beach Resort.

AFL-CIO and "Change to Win"

Organizing new workers is the core principle of a new labor federation—Change to Win (CTW)—which held its founding convention on September 27, 2005, in St. Louis, Missouri. The organization was formed by a group of seven unions—the Carpenters, the Laborers, the Farm Workers, the Teamsters, Service Employees (SEIU), Textile and Hotel Workers (UNITE HERE), and Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW). The combined membership of the seven unions is about 5.5 million workers. (See the box on page seven to make sense of these alphabet names.)

Four of these unions—the Teamsters, SEIU, UNITE HERE, and

UFCW—have ended their affiliation with the AFL-CIO. The Laborers and Farm Workers remain in the AFL-CIO, at least for now. The Carpenters left the AFL-CIO four years earlier in 2001.

The CTW unions chose to form their own federation after they failed to win support for their proposals to dramatically reshape the AFL-CIO to focus more on organizing and to merge smaller unions by industrial sectors. The AFL-CIO leadership agreed with many of the proposed changes but not enough to satisfy the CTW.

The AFL-CIO remains the largest labor federation in the United States with 53 member unions and a combined membership of 9 million

unionized workers. However, the four departing unions were some of the largest unions in the AFL-CIO and paid about \$30 million of the federation's \$100 million annual operating expenses. The loss of this income has forced the AFL-CIO to make drastic cuts in staffing and programs.

The AFL-CIO

Since 1955, the US labor movement was represented by a single labor federation when the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) merged to form the AFL-CIO. Most of America's largest unions were affiliated with the AFL-CIO,

meaning they paid dues and supported the federation when it didn't conflict with their own interests. When these was conflict, it wasn't unusual for unions to quit and rejoin the AFL-CIO when the differences were settled.

There are also an estimated 2,500 unions that are not affiliated with either the AFL-CIO or Change to Win. Most of these are small unions, but there are some large unions such as the National Education Association or United Electrical Workers that chose to remain independent of the AFL-CIO.

As a voluntary association of individual unions, the AFL-CIO has

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Supreme Court upholds ILWU, dismisses Casumpang appeal

HONOLULU—In an unanimous decision issued on October 18, 2005, the Hawaii Supreme Court ordered the state's district court to enforce a judgment in favor of the ILWU and against Maui member Nicanor Casumpang, Jr. in the amount of \$7,636. The Court also dismissed Casumpang's appeal that the fine of \$7,636 was unreasonable and dismissed Casumpang's claim that the union owed him 24 days of vacation pay.

In a well reasoned decision, the Supreme Court found that the ILWU Judicial Panel was authorized to impose fines under the union's consti-

tution and did provide Casumpang with due process. The union gave Casumpang adequate notice of the charges against him. The union gave Casumpang adequate time to prepare a defense. And the union gave Casumpang a full and fair hearing.

The Supreme Court also concluded that the fine imposed on Casumpang of \$7,636 was reasonable and supported by substantial evidence. The ILWU Judicial Panel imposed the fine against Casumpang in January 1998 for violating the union's constitution which prohibited full-time union

officials from holding any other paid outside position.

The Hawaii Supreme Court decision is separate from a jury verdict in US District Court against the ILWU which ordered the union to pay \$1.24 million in damages to Casumpang. The jury in that trial felt the union had violated Casumpang's free speech and retaliated against him by imposing a fine and suspending his membership.

The ILWU is appealing that decision and the unusually large monetary damages awarded by the

jury. If the union loses its appeal, the award will have to be paid out of the union's general funds as it is not covered by the union's liability insurance.

"The Hawaii Supreme Court agreed that the ILWU followed due process and did everything the right way in disciplining Casumpang in 1998," said ILWU President Fred Galdones. "Unfortunately the jury reached a completely different conclusion. Hopefully, this can be corrected in our appeal." ♦

Around the Union

ILWU TV commercial paired with volunteerism message

For the first time ever, the ILWU has a television commercial! The 30-second commercial features who we are and what we do through the faces of ILWU members representing the diversity of our union—by industry, island, age, ethnicity, gender.

Mahalo to our TV stars: Clinton Gapol, Jo Ann Lau and Daisy Nakamoto of Hawaii Division; Zenaida Andaya, Mike Bunyard, Francis Kamakokalani, Linda Fernandez (Lanai), Krisha Sahagun (Molokai) of Maui Division; Nelson Rita of Kauai Division; and Jimmy Barreras, Dona Hamabata and Josh Primacio of Oahu Division. Other members in the location shoot were: Ligaya Ansagay, Lani Goo, Kenneth Ige, Joanne Kapule, and Eddie Sekigawa.

The opportunity to produce and air a television commercial was brought to us by KITV, which has partnered with Aloha United Way to promote A UW's Volunteer Hawaii, a web-based program to link would-be volunteers with agencies and organi-

zations that need their help. Volunteer Hawaii works hand-in-hand with A UW's other program 2-1-1, which links people who dial 211 on their telephones from any island with resources in their community.

Why does the ILWU support volunteerism? Because it's a natural fit with the union's mission and purpose. We rely heavily on volunteers at the unit level to provide support and assistance to their co-workers to negotiate contracts, enforce contracts, and ensure that workers have a voice on the job and their rights are protected. Unit officers and stewards are unpaid and give of their time and talent to make the union stronger and better.

The ILWU's motto, "An Injury to



Videotaping Jimmy Barreras of Unit 4301 - Dole Fresh Fruit Company.

One is an Injury to All," promotes the concept of collectivism and doing to someone else. That's what volunteerism is — recognizing that, as a member of your community, you

need to do your part to make it better for all.

Support volunteerism—and watch for the ILWU commercial shown only on KITV-4. ♦

Union members *kokua* Christina Cababat

KAHULUI—Stephen West understands the meaning of the ILWU motto: "An Injury to One is an Injury to All."

When Steve learned that Christina Cababat, a housekeeper at the Maui Prince Hotel, was battling cancer, he decided to do something to help her. After all, he is the chair of the ILWU unit at Maui Prince and could not sit idly by while Christina's bills mounted day by day.

Steve set up a fund in Christina's name to raise money for her expenses, which include medical and hospital copayments as well as travel

to Oahu for treatment and doctor's visits. He spread the word to the workers at Maui Prince, then decided to reach out to members attending the Maui Union Labor Day Celebration on September 4.

Sponsored by the ILWU and the Hawaii State AFL-CIO, the celebration drew over a thousand union members and their families to the Wailuku Community Center. Union members and friends donated more than \$2,200 in one day to the Christina Cababat Fund.

If you'd like to make a contribution of your own, please send it to:

Christina Cababat Fund
c/o ILWU Maui Division
896 Lower Main Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Currently undergoing chemotherapy, Christina was not able to attend the Labor Day celebration, but her family (including husband Juan, a bartender at Maui Prince) came to show their appreciation for

the generosity and support they received from the ILWU and others attending the event. Christina's daughter even won the grand prize (two nights at the Grand Wailea Resort), which Christina, Juan and the kids will enjoy as a family.

"An Injury to One is an Injury to All"—not just a slogan any more. ♦



Christina Cababat's family and friends raise funds for her treatment at the Maui Labor Day celebration: (l-r, sitting) daughter Kuulei Cababat, sister Aurencia Peredo, husband Juan Cababat, Stephen West, and Alexis West; (l-r, standing) Randy Peredo, son Kristopher Cababat, and Alberto Peredo.

ILWU Local 142— Important notice on Political Action Fund

Articles XXXIII of the Constitution and Bylaws of ILWU Local 142 as amended to October 1, 1991 reads:

"Section 1. The Local Political Action Fund shall consist of voluntary contributions. The Union will not favor or disadvantage any member because of the amount of their contribution or the decision not to contribute. In no case will a member be required to pay more than their pro rata share of the Union's collective bargaining expenses.

"Section 2. The Local Convention shall determine the suggested amount of contribution to the Local Political Action Fund by each member. Individual members are free to contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest. Monies paid into the Fund will be contributed only on behalf of those members who voluntarily permit that portion of their unit dues to be used for that purpose.

"Section 3. Those members who do not wish to have any portion of their unit dues diverted to the Local Political Action Fund, but who wish to make a political action contribution directly to the Fund, may do so in any amount and whenever they wish.

"Section 4. Voluntary contributions to the Local Political Action Fund will be made during the month of December. Each September, October and November, each dues paying member of the Local shall be advised of their right to withhold the suggested contribution or any portion thereof otherwise made in December. Those members expressing such a desire on a form provided by the Local shall be sent a check in the amount of the suggested contribution or less if they so desire, in advance of monies being collected for the Fund."

Members of the ILWU who wish to contribute more than \$4.00 per regular member may do so by sending a check in the desired amount, made out to the ILWU Political Action Fund, directly to the Local office.

More than \$4.00
I wish to contribute more than the minimum voluntary contribution of \$4.00 to the ILWU Political Action Fund. Enclosed please find my check for \$_____.

Less than \$4.00
I do not wish to contribute the entire \$4.00 to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I will contribute \$_____. I understand that the Local will send me a check for the difference between my contributions and \$4.00 (\$2.00 for intermittents) prior to December 1, 2005.

No Contribution
I do not wish to contribute to the ILWU Political Action Fund. In order to ensure that no portion of my dues payment is allocated to the Fund, and recognizing that I have no obligation whatsoever to make such a contribution, the Local will send me a check in the amount of \$4.00 (or \$2.00 for intermittents) prior to December 1, 2005.

signature _____

name (please print) _____

address _____

unit# _____ social security # _____

Return to: ILWU • 451 Atkinson Drive • Honolulu, HI 96814
ILWU Political Action Fund contributions are not tax deductible.

Special Report to the VOICE of the ILWU ILWU members celebrate Labor Day

On Kauai, ILWU retirees celebrated their Labor Day early as they packed the ILWU Hall in Lihue on August 13 for their annual picnic. Kauai Division hosts the picnic every year and provided the food, door prizes, and entertainment.

The Big Island alternates Labor Day events for the general membership and retirees. This year it was the old-timers' turn and about 300 retirees from various ILWU pension clubs gathered for a relaxing day at the Waiola State Park on August 27. Hawaii Division's full-time officers had spent several days preparing the food and arranging the day-long program.

Lanai's Unit 2509, composed of members who work at the Lodge at Koele and the Four Season's Resort Lanai at Manele Bay, celebrated

Thousands of ILWU members, their families, and retirees celebrated Labor Day in six separate events around the islands.

their Labor Day at Dole Park in the center of Lanai City on September 3. Members enjoyed a day of family fun, entertainment, lucky number drawings, and a lunch of Lanai's famous and delicious chili made in a giant wok.

Maui Division joined other AFL-CIO unions such as HSTA (teachers) and HGEA (government employees) to celebrate Labor Day at the Wailuku Community Center on September 4. Over 1200 people enjoyed the fellowship, food, music, children's games, and door prizes. The Hawaii State AFL-CIO and the

ILWU sponsored the event.

The Oahu Longshore Division held their Labor Day on September 5 at the Disabled American Veterans Hall in Keehi Lagoon Park. Over 400 longshore members and their families enjoyed the good food and entertainment. The event also honored all longshore retirees, particularly those who held strong and kept the union together during the 157-day long dock strike of 1949.

It was kid's day at the ILWU's Atkinson Building as Oahu Division celebrated the second to last Labor Day event on September 10. The

adults and older folks had a choice of playing bingo or listening to the music of the Kapakahi Brothers. For the kids, there was an arcade of eight games with plenty of prizes, two inflatable bouncers, balloon making, ice cream and hot dogs, and a magic show.

And finally, Kauai Division, in a burst of enthusiasm, decided to hold another Labor Day event on October 8 so that it could celebrate the holiday with active members as well as retirees.

There was something for everyone as ILWU Local 142 members celebrated and enjoyed their Labor Day holiday in Hawaii. ♦

**Next issue, Labor Day photos from:
Unit 2509 - Lanai Hotels
Unit 4201 - Oahu Longshore
Oahu Division • Kauai Division**

Fun and games for Kauai pensioners



Social services coordinator Joanne Kealoha (right) helps pensioners check in as they arrive at the Lihue ILWU Hall on Saturday, August 13, 2005 for their Labor Day celebration.

“The pensioner’s picnic is a Kauai tradition that started in the 1950s. We have this picnic because pensioners are an important part of our union, just like active members. Even though they are retired, they keep contributing to the union—in political action, in negotiations, and as ambassadors representing the union to the general community.”

—Division Director Clayton Dela Cruz



Conrado Francisco, Frank DeCosta, and former Kauai Division Director Dyna Nakamoto try their luck at BINGO. Kauai Division gave out 20-pound bags of rice as BINGO prizes.



ILWU organizers Bill Udani and Carmelita Fontanilla (foreground) help with the frisbee toss game. Other organizers that assisted with the Kauai Labor Day were International Representative Tracy Takano, Ron Clough, Merlita Crespin, and Zemaida Andaya.



Pensioners participated in several games, including the ring toss (above), which was almost like playing horseshoes. There was also a dart game which involved popping balloons—some of which had prize slips inside—a putting game, and BINGO.



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ILWU Labor Day Celebrations

Over one thousand participate Multi-union celebration on Maui



Children's activities included a train ride sponsored by Kimo Apana, bouncers, and fun games that were sponsored by the Hawaii State Teachers Association and run by HSTA members.



The kitchen crew worked hard to make lunch for 1,000 people.



Entertainment was provided by Halau Na Lei Kaumaka O Uka under the direction of *kumu hula* Napua Graig. Other entertainment included Ron Kualaa, Ernest Puaa, Jarrett Roback and Friends, and Ohana's. ILWU Vice Chair for Unit 2406 (Maui cement units) Francis Kamakaokalani worked hard to organize the entertainment portion of the program.



Everyone loves cotton candy! Hotel retiree Sylvia Harima (left) and a helper pass out cotton candy to both children and adults.



Emcee Michael Victorino (right, with microphone) called lucky numbers for the crowd while ILWU Business Agents Steve Castro, Claro Romero, Jerrybeth DeMello, Wayne Takehara, and Bobby Andrion distributed the prizes.

"The labor day was a great success because it brought families together, as well as active members and retirees. We already have plans for next year's Labor Day, which will be held on Sept. 3, 2006—and we hope even more ILWU members will attend."

—Division Director William Kennison



Shaved ice is a popular treat on such a nice, sunny day.

Where did Labor Day come from?

Labor Day is the only holiday created because of the power of organized workers. History tells us that the first Labor Day was organized on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, by the New York City Central Labor Union, an organization of twelve small unions connected with the Knights of Labor. The Central Labor Union put out a call for its members to skip work and instead join a parade through the city to demonstrate the power of organized labor.

September 5 was not a holiday. Workers risked discipline or dismissal for taking the day off, but 10,000 workers joined the parade anyway. They held banners demanding, "Less Work and More Pay" or more radical slogans like, "To the Workers Should Belong All Wealth," and "Labor Built This Republic, Labor Shall Rule It." The parade ended with a picnic for the marchers and their families.

The next year, 20,000 marchers joined the parade organized by the Central Labor Union. It was a huge success and the idea quickly spread to other industrial areas and cities as labor organizations followed the lead set by New York and organized their own parades and picnics. The first Monday in September became known as Labor Day and the labor movement treated it as a holiday.

As the labor movement grew in strength, unions turned to political action to pressure state and local governments to pass laws declaring Labor Day an official holiday. By 1894, thirty-two states recognized Labor Day as a holiday. The US government made it a national holiday for federal workers in 1894.

Today, the original meaning and significance of Labor Day is just as important as it was in 1882. Labor Day should be a day for working people to come together with all other working people to demonstrate the unity, strength and spirit of organized labor. ♦

ILWU Labor Day Celebrations

Big Isle pensioners given a day of thanks



Hawaii Division held its Labor Day pensioner's picnic on August 27 at Wailoa State Park. Two hundred pensioners from nine clubs attended the picnic, which is held every other year in Hilo. Big Island full-time officers prepared all the food, including beef from a cow donated by former Business Agent Herman Amaral.

Hawaii Division Director Richard Baker Jr. (left) with event emcee Franco Longakit. Baker welcomed the pensioners and thanked them for all their hard work in building the union.



Paaulo pensioners wore bright red shirts to identify their club.



Fernando and Sarafina Barsatan (front) were recognized as the oldest married couple. (L-r) Fernando Barsatan, Barbara Hanog, Sarafina Barsatan, and Kawaihona Poy. Mrs. Hanog (Pepeekeo Pensioner's Club) and Mrs. Poy (Laupahoehoe Pensioner's Club) served as co-chairpersons of the awards committee.

(Below) Big Island mayor Harry Kim attended the Labor Day celebration, and spoke about growing up on the Oloa plantation.



Talented pensioners provided the day's entertainment. (Above) Honoka'a pensioners (with a ukulele player from Pahala) serenaded the group.

"The pensioner's Labor Day is Hawaii Division's way of thanking our retirees, of giving them support, and celebrating their contributions to the labor movement. It's their day, and their program—for all the things they have done, and continue to do to make the union stronger."

—Division Director Richard Baker Jr.

AFL-CIO Report: plans for the future—continued from page 7

more money and resources into organizing. The AFL-CIO was putting too much into political campaigns, like John Kerry's run for president, and reaped no results, they said. The next day CtW held another press conference to formally announce that the SEIU and the Teamsters were disaffiliating from the AFL-CIO. The other unions stayed in (with the UFCW disaffiliating the following week), but proclaimed their allegiance to the CtW program.

The AFL-CIO countered saying they had in fact made many compromises and adopted much of the CtW program, including putting more

money and resources into organizing and giving rebates to unions that did more, and cutting back on the federation's staff and programs. They argued against pitting organizing work against political activity, contending that changes in labor laws and policies were needed to make organizing less cumbersome and that organizing was needed to have enough strength to win electoral victories and legislative victories. The two are interdependent and interactive, they said. Emphasizing one over the other was a chicken and egg problem.

Many of the unions remaining in the AFL-CIO responded to the

disaffiliations by demanding strict enforcement of the federation's Constitution: non-members are not allowed participation in AFL-CIO state federations, central labor councils (CLCs), trade departments and other affiliated groups. The hundreds of state federation and CLC delegates let their discontent show.

But by August the pressure from below had the AFL-CIO proposing an inventive way to get around its own Constitution and allow the CtW local unions to participate in central bodies. The AFL-CIO would grant "Solidarity Charters" to the locals,

giving them special membership. But the proposal was drafted in a way that the CtW leadership was able to find things in the fine print to object to. They demanded the locals continue to participate in the CLCs and state federations on the same terms they had in the past.

Both sides are finding some resistance from their local officers and rank and filers to the splits and acrimony at the top levels of the movement, and the dust has yet to settle. Much will depend on what happens at the Change to Win coalition's founding convention scheduled for September 27, 2005. ♦

Bush handouts to Big Business

Helping hurricane survivors? Not Bush—continued from page 1

Administration moved with incredible speed. Within hours after Hurricane Katrina made landfall, the Bush Administration was hard at work, taking care of big business while cutting wages and safety rules for working people.

More profits for the food industry

One day after Katrina made landfall, on August 30, Bush took care of his friends in the packaged food industry by **changing the rules to allow the early entry of 2006 foreign sugar** and the import of an additional 110,000 tons of Mexican refined sugar.

Some of President Bush's best campaign fund-raisers, people who raise \$100,000 to \$200,000 for the Republicans, are top executives of packaged food companies. The official announcement from the Department of Agriculture justified the action because of Katrina, a "catastrophic hurricane," and predicted the "forced closure of two major sugar refineries . . . in the New Orleans area." **All of this was done days before anything was known about the real extent of Katrina's damage.**

More profits for oil companies

Two days after Katrina hit, on Wednesday, August 31, the Bush administration **suspended hours-of-service safety rules for truck drivers** transporting gasoline, diesel fuel, and jet fuel. The safety rules were also lifted for drivers delivering emergency relief supplies. The waiver has been extended to October 26.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations limit the number of hours for drivers because of serious and fatal highway accidents caused by fatigue or falling asleep at the wheel. Accidents involving large trucks cause about 5,000 deaths and 110,000 injuries each year. An estimated 85 percent of these deaths and injuries are the drivers and occupants of other vehicles, not the truck drivers. Studies point to driver fatigue as the cause of 10-15 percent of these accidents.

Suspending the rules allows oil and trucking companies to require their drivers to work longer than 11 hours a day with less than 10 hours rest between shifts, thus increasing the risk of serious accidents and endangering the lives of every other driver on the road.

The **Environmental Protection Agency also suspended federal fuel standards** which prohibit the sale of high ozone and sulfur emitting gas and diesel fuel in the areas affected by the hurricane. The reason for allowing the use of "dirtier" gas and diesel is to prevent shortages in the available fuel supply.



Still more profits for Big Oil

On day three, September 1, at the urging of oil and shipping companies, President Bush quickly **waived the Jones Act for oil and petroleum products**, claiming it was necessary "in the interest of national defense." The Bush Administration said the action was necessary because the hurricane might cause shortages of commercial jet fuel and gasoline for consumers in some parts of the country and this "threatens the Nation's economic and national security." And since there are not enough American ships, oil refineries and shippers should be allowed to use foreign ships to move oil and gasoline.

The Jones Act works to protect our safety and security by prohibiting foreign ships with foreign crews from operating within US waters and between US ports. Only American owned and operated ships can move cargo between US ports. Waiving the Jones Act allowed oil companies to use cheaper foreign ships to transport their oil, but did nothing to lower the price of gas.

It turns out there was never any threat to the national defense nor any shortages of gasoline or jet fuel. Instead, oil companies took advantage of the disaster, saved money on shipping, and still hit American consumers with huge increases in the price of gasoline. Thanks to President Bush, his friends and supporters in the oil business can expect record high profits that could top \$100 billion this year.

The Jones Act waiver has been extended to October 24.

More handouts to big business

On Aug. 29, 2005, the day Katrina hit, Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR), a subsidiary of the **Halliburton Co., was awarded \$12 million under a cost reimbursement, indefinite-delivery/ indefinite-quantity**

contract to repair hurricane damage at three naval bases in the Southeast Region. On September 3 and 4, 2005, KBR got another \$17.8 million to repair buildings and clear debris from more Navy installations in the South. On September 9, 2005, **KBR was awarded \$15 million** to help the US Army Corp of Engineers pump water out of New Orleans. All four awards were made as "task orders" and modifications to an existing KBR contract.

Vice President Dick Cheney ran the Halliburton Company from 1995 to 2000 and receives deferred compensation from the company and retains stock options. **Halliburton has nearly \$11 billion in US government contracts to support troops and restore Iraqi oil. The company is also under investigation by government auditors for overbilling, waste, and unnecessary expenses.**

By September 8, companies with political connections to Bush and the Republican Party like the Shaw Group, the Halliburton Company, Bechtel, and the Fluor Corporation were each given **no-bid \$100 million deals to repair damaged flood levees, build temporary housing for the displaced, and rebuild New Orleans' public infrastructure.** With \$62 billion and more coming in federal funds for Katrina relief and reconstruction, the Bush Administration will have plenty of government money to dole out to friends and supporters.

These contracts are cost-plus deals where the companies bill the government for whatever it costs, then add one or two percent as their profit. Since these companies already had contracts for work in Iraq, the Bush Administration simply added money for Katrina work to the existing contracts. In this way, federal money can be handed out without competitive bidding.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson likened the handing out of no-bid FEMA contracts to "white-collar looting."

Still more profits for business

As an added bonus to KBR/Halliburton and other construction companies, President **Bush suspended the Davis-Bacon law** on September 9 on all federally financed construction in areas hit by Hurricane Katrina. The law requires companies to pay the "prevailing wage" on government construction projects and can be suspended in "a national emergency."

The prevailing wage is a kind of average based on the hourly wage and benefits paid to the majority of workers in the largest city of each county. **The idea behind the Davis-Bacon law is that taxpayer money should not be used to lower wages in a community,** which would happen if the government were allowed to hire companies that paid the lowest wages. Instead, the federal government is required to use companies that pay the average or prevailing wage.

By suspending the Davis-Bacon law, Bush is allowing companies with government contracts to pay less than the prevailing wage. This will have the effect of lowering all wages in the area, as companies that pay higher wages will have to cut wages to compete for federal contracts.

Louisiana already has some of the lowest prevailing wages in the United States. For example, the prevailing wage for carpenters working on federal building projects in New Orleans is about \$15.00 an hour including benefits and a construction laborer would be paid about \$10.60 an hour including benefits. At these wages, a construction laborer in New Orleans earns a little more than the federal poverty level for a family of four (11% more).

By comparison, the same work on government funded projects in Hawaii would pay carpenters about \$50 an hour including benefits and laborers would earn about \$38 an hour including benefits.

In his proclamation, Bush stated: "Suspension of the [Davis-Bacon prevailing wage] . . . will result in greater assistance to these devastated communities and will permit the employment of thousands of additional individuals." Bush wants us to believe that construction companies would hire more workers instead of pocketing the extra profit.

The suspension of Davis-Bacon applies to affected areas in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and Louisiana and will remain in place "until otherwise provided." In the past, the suspension of Davis-Bacon lasted only as long as the national emergency and did not apply to longer term reconstruction contracts.

Bush wants a similar suspension to lower the wages of service workers who would be cleaning up after Katrina. ♦

AFL-CIO Report

AFL-CIO plans future amid divisions

By Steve Stallone
excerpted from *The Dispatcher*

While the departure of a couple of major unions and the boycott of the AFL-CIO's 50th anniversary convention by them and several others dominated the news coverage of the event, a number of other significant and far-reaching actions by the remaining delegates eluded the national media's reporting.

Putting rumors of labor's demise aside, the delegates remaining at the July 25-28 meeting in Chicago got busy. They passed a strongly worded anti-war resolution that puts the American labor movement on record as demanding the immediate end of the war and occupation in Iraq (see story page 5); launched a multi-million dollar national campaign against Wal-Mart, the poster boy of bad corporate behavior; resolved to focus resources and energy on building organizing, year-round political and legislative mobilizations and global worker organizing; and mandated diversity in labor's national leadership.

Still, the disaffiliation of the SEIU and the Teamsters, and a week later the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), and the boycott by UFCW, UNITE-HERE and the United Farm Workers (UFW), hung like dense fog over the convention hall, dampening the celebration of

the AFL-CIO's 50th anniversary and obscuring the road ahead.

The AFL-CIO program

The AFL-CIO leadership presented the convention with an extensive and ambitious program to expand organizing and political action, seeing both as interdependent activities for building the labor movement. For the last five years the federation has been goading its member unions to devote 30 percent of their resources to organizing. (The ILWU made that its policy at its 2000 Convention.) And while several million workers have been organized over the years, the loss of union jobs due to downsizing, outsourcing and bankruptcies has resulted in fewer union members overall.

So the AFL-CIO Executive Committee proposed, and the convention delegates adopted, a two-pronged strategy. The federation will help its member unions increase their capacity to organize, especially outside the National Labor Relations Board process that is stacked against workers. And it will ramp up efforts to change public policy to restore the right to organize and bargain collectively that has been whittled down ever since the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act in 1947 and accelerated under George W. Bush.

The federation will create a \$22.5 million Strategic Organizing Fund.

Two-thirds, or \$15 million, will be returned as rebates to unions that meet organizing standards. The other \$7.5 million will go to assisting strategic organizing campaigns important to the entire labor movement, providing expert technical support, campaign research and organizer training.

On the political front, the federation plans to move from focusing on biannual get-out-the-vote efforts to building year-round capacity for informing and mobilizing members on legislative and public policy issues. The program will focus on uprooting anti-worker politicians at all levels, turning back right-to-work-for-less and paycheck deception laws, and fighting attempts to destroy defined-benefit pensions and health care programs. New efforts will be made to recruit, train and elect union members to public office.

The federation will also step up its efforts to bring more diversity to union leadership at all levels. To accomplish this it will increase training and leadership development at the local levels, do more to recruit a diverse pool of young people into the Union Summer and other programs, and establish as policy that each union's delegation to the AFL-CIO generally reflect the racial and gender makeup of its membership. The AFL-CIO also will work to include more racial and gender diversity on its Executive Council.

Disaffiliation and its effects

The unions disaffiliating from the AFL-CIO—the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the International Brotherhood of the Teamsters (IBT), and a week later the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)—and the unions that sided with them, boycotting the convention but not disaffiliating—UNITE-HERE, the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), and the United Farm Workers (UFW)—joined under the moniker the “Change to Win” coalition (CtW).

All the leaders of the CtW unions restated their contention that the fundamental principle behind their actions was that they wanted to put

—continued on page 5



ILWU International President James Spinosa, International Vice President, Mainland Bob McEllrath, International Vice President, Hawaii Wesley Furtado, International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, and Coast Committeeman Joe Wenzl with AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, right.

AFL-CIO and “Change to Win”—continued from page 1

limited power and found its most effective role was in political action—uniting the labor movement around common legislative issues and getting unions to work together to lobby for these issues on the national and state levels.

The AFL-CIO also provided its member unions with a civilized procedure for settling disputes—particularly disputes over jurisdiction when two or more unions clash over the right to represent the same workers.

There are now two labor federations

in the United States—the AFL-CIO and Change to Win (CTW). This is nothing new or unusual for the labor movement, as unions have often split from the AFL-CIO over politics, tactics, and even personalities.

This is something the ILWU knows quite well. The ILWU actually started as an AFL union in 1934, as the West Coast chapter of the International Longshore Association (ILA). In 1937, the West Coast longshoremen broke from the ILA and joined warehouse workers to form the ILWU under the CIO banner. In 1949, the ILWU quit

the CIO and remained an independent union for the next 39 years. The ILWU joined the AFL-CIO in 1988, after members approved the affiliation in a union-wide vote.

Over time, the labor movement has always found there is much more that unites them in common cause than divides them. There is every indication that the AFL-CIO unions and CTW unions will continue to work together where there is common ground and will avoid the destructive jurisdictional fighting of the past. ♦

What the alphabet names mean

An acronym is a short cut label formed by taking the first letter of each word in the full name. IBM is an acronym for International Business Machine. MCC is short for Maui Community College. HMSA is an acronym for Hawaii Medical Service Association.

Many unions are more commonly known by their acronym than by their full name. Did you know that ILWU is short for International Longshore and Warehouse Union? Following are the full names and acronyms of the unions mentioned in the stories on page one and this page.

Some unions have “international” as part of their names because they have members in the United States and Canada.

1. **AFL-CIO** - American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization. About 9 million members in 53 unions.

2. **CTW** - Change to Win. About 6 million members in 7 unions.

3. **IBT** - International Brotherhood of Teamsters. About 1.4 million members in transportation, freight-related and other industries.

4. **ILA** - International Longshore Association. About 60,000 longshore workers on the East Coast, Great Lakes and Gulf States.

5. **ILWU** - International Longshore and Warehouse Union. About 45,000 members, in longshore, warehouse, sugar, pineapple, hotels, and other industries.

6. **LIUNA** - Laborers' International Union of North America. About 800,000 members, mostly construction laborers.

7. **SEIU** - Service Employees International Union. About 1.3 million members, mostly in health care, public employees, and building service.

8. **UBC** - United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. About 520,000 members.

9. **UFCW** - United Food and Commercial International Workers. Represents workers primarily in the food industry in the US and Canada. About 1.4 million members.

10. **UFW** - United Farm Workers of America. About 7,000 members, mostly migrant farm workers who harvest such crops as grapes, lettuce, strawberries, etc.

11. **UNITE HERE** - Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees and Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union. About 450,000 members in apparel, retail, laundry, distribution centers, hotels, restaurants, and food service.

News You Can Use: **MEDICARE PART D**

Meetings on Medicare Part D scheduled

The ILWU will hold meetings to provide information to pensioners and active members about the new Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit that begins enrollment on November 15 of this year. All Medicare beneficiaries are eligible for Medicare Part D.

How do you enroll? What kinds of plans are being offered? What if you already have a drug plan?

These questions and more will be answered at the meetings.

Before signing up for a Medicare Part D plan, ILWU pensioners are advised to come to a meeting and be aware of marketing scams. Never give your bank account number, Medicare I.D. number, or other

personal information to telemarketers.

If you have any questions about the meetings, please call your Division Office at the numbers listed below.

- Hilo: 935-372**
- Waimea: 885-6136**
- Kona: 329-2070**
- Wailuku: 244-9191**
- Lihue: 245-3374**
- Honolulu: 949-4161**

OAHU

- Oct. 18..... Tuesday 9:00 a.m. ILWU Hall (Honolulu)
- Oct. 21..... Friday 9:00 a.m. ... Filipino Com. Center (Waipahu)
- Oct. 24..... Monday 9:00 a.m. ILWU Hall (Honolulu)
- Oct. 31..... Monday 3:00 p.m. Friendship Bible Church (Ewa)

HAWAII

- Oct. 27..... Thursday 9:30 a.m. ILWU Hall (Honokaa)
- Oct. 27..... Thursday 2:00 p.m. ILWU Hall (Hilo)
- Oct. 27..... Thursday 5:00 p.m. ILWU Hall (Hilo)
- Oct. 28..... Friday 9:00 a.m. Kulaimano Community Center
- Oct. 28..... Friday 1:30 p.m. Papaikou Community Center
- Nov. 7..... Monday 9:30 a.m. Naalehu Hongwanji
- Nov. 7..... Monday 1:30 p.m. Pahala Community Center
- Nov. 10..... Thursday 9:00 a.m. ILWU Office (Kona)
- Nov. 10..... Thursday 1:30 p.m. Kam Park (Kohala)
- Nov. 10..... Thursday 5:00 p.m. ILWU Hall (Honokaa)

MAUI

- Nov. 1..... Tuesday 9:00 a.m. ILWU Hall (Wailuku)
- Nov. 1..... Tuesday 1:30 p.m. ILWU Office (Lahaina)

KAUAI

- Nov. 9..... Wednesday 9:30 a.m. ILWU Hall (Lihue)
- Nov. 9..... Wednesday 1:30 p.m. Kekaha Community Center

LANAI

- Nov. 14..... Monday 9:30 a.m. ILWU Office (Lanai)
- Nov. 14..... Monday 1:30 p.m. ILWU Office (Lanai)

MOLOKAI

- Nov. 15..... Tuesday 9:30 a.m. ILWU Office (Molokai)
- Nov. 15..... Tuesday 1:30 p.m. ILWU Office (Molokai)

Poamoho camp one step closer to homeownership

A year ago, 60 families of Poamoho Camp faced eviction by Del Monte, which operated the camp to provide housing for employees and retirees. Del Monte planned to cancel the land lease, bulldoze the houses, plow up the pineapple, and return 2,200 acres of land in its original condition to Galbraith Estate.

With help from the Legislature, the 300 residents took a stand and fought to keep their homes. However, with Galbraith not budging and no funds to purchase the land, efforts were at a stalemate until Peter Savio stepped into the picture. He made an agreement to purchase the land, and the eviction was averted.

Savio is a local developer who made a name for himself by converting rentals into fee-simple properties for sale. One notable project is Queen Emma Gardens. His developments have made homeowners of hundreds of Hawaii residents who had never before considered buying a home.

For the past year, the residents have worked to organize themselves while Savio sought financing to purchase the land from Galbraith Estate. Banks all over town turned him down because the project looked like too much of a risk.

First Hawaiian agrees to loan

Finally this summer, First Hawaiian Bank heard Peter

Savio's dreams and looked at the camp. They liked what they saw and could see the potential. They agreed to loan \$2.6 million to HIRC Poamoho Camp, Inc. for the land acquisition.

At a press conference in August to announce the loan, First Hawaiian Bank President Donald Horner presented a symbolic check to all

who are working to help the residents achieve homeownership: Peter Savio; Vaeleti Tyrell, president of the Poamoho Camp Association; Fred Galdones, president of the ILWU, which is helping to organize the residents into a cooperative; Mayor Mufi Hannemann, whose administration will play a big role in allowing the camp to achieve its full potential; and City Council Chair Donovan Dela Cruz and Rep. Michael Magaoay, in whose districts Poamoho is located. Rep. Marcus Oshiro, who spearheaded support for the camp when the potential of eviction first surfaced, was not able to attend the press conference due to his involvement in a traffic accident while driving to Poamoho.

Local President Fred Galdones said, "Saving Poamoho Camp means preserving a way of life and a bit of history. It means providing affordable housing, something scarce in Hawaii's booming housing market. And, most of all, it means protecting the homes of more than 300 people, many of them ILWU members and retirees who labored long and hard to make the pineapple industry prosper in Hawaii."

Peter Savio presented ohia trees to the camp to commemorate the loan. The ohia, he said, is a symbol of struggle. Nothing grows on lava rock except the ohia. It is a tree that struggles and survives amid adversity. Just like the residents of Poamoho Camp in their struggle for their homes.

Mayor Hannemann said he supports the residents of Poamoho because "it's the right thing to do." While there are sure to be other hurdles to overcome, the Mayor said "nothing is insurmountable" and pledged to provide assistance to the residents.

With Savio's purchase of the land, Poamoho residents are one step closer toward achieving homeownership through a cooperative. With the City's help, instead of individual lots, the camp will become a condominium to ensure that housing remains affordable and the character of the camp is preserved. ♦



Residents of Poamoho Camp with Peter Savio (kneeling, front).