

Longshoremen's and warehousemen's union,
Int'l (1949?) ✓



LOCAL 6

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and

BOOK

of

FACTS



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MAY 5 1949

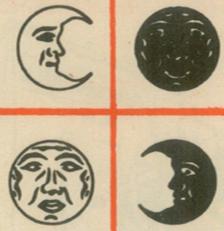


LOCAL No. 6

MARCH OF TIME

(Unions don't just happen. Somebody has to build them. For the last 10 years Local 6 has been a powerful union, able to enforce peaceful negotiations with the employers. In those 10 years we've lost only 13 days through strike. But it wasn't always so. The first years

of our union were full of tough fights. But they succeeded in laying the groundwork for the years of peace which followed. By 1940 the major organizational job was done — Local 6 had 12,000 members. Today we have 15,000.)



1929—The stock market crashes! Financiers dive out of the Wall Street Windows in wholesale lots. The Depression officially begins. Those waterfront warehousemen lucky enough to have jobs work for as low as 30 cents an hour.

ganization to uptown and out of town shops.



1934—MAY 9. Waterfront and maritime workers organize against the inhuman conditions under which they work. The ship-owners and waterfront employers flatly refuse to recognize the unions, meet with them, or discuss their demands. 40,000 San Francisco workers walk off their jobs.

Violence in Stockton! A strike-breaker shoots and kills Ray Morency, a warehouseman and a vice president of the union, while peacefully picketing.



JULY 5. Bloody Thursday! The bloodiest day of a bloody strike. Police who throughout the strike acted as agents of the shipowners, shoot and kill Howard Sperry, a longshoreman, and Nick Borboise, a cook.

AUGUST. California Packing Corporation Plant No. 48 and Santa Cruz Packing launch the Santa Cruz "plan" of professional strike-breakers and armed guards against the warehouse union. Workers refuse to handle scab freight and employers lock out the entire harbor. A union charge against the employers, filed under the newly enacted Wagner Act, results in a history-making Supreme Court decision favoring the union.



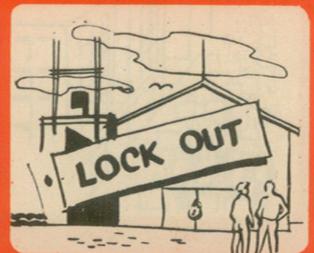
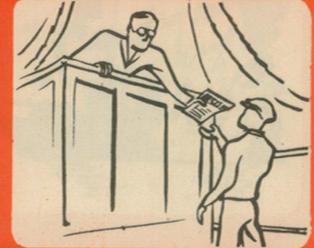
JULY. Aroused by police violence against the peaceful waterfront picket lines, every organized worker in San Francisco and thousands of unorganized workers join the strike in sympathy. The effects of the San Francisco General Strike force the employers to terms and contracts are signed.

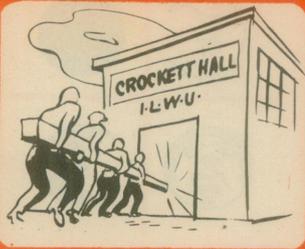
1936—OCTOBER 30. San Francisco employers refuse to renew the waterfront and maritime union contracts. They violate an agreement to continue negotiations, and lock out the port. But THIS time the unions have the situation under control and there is no violence. After 98 days the employers come to terms. Warehouse union members win a 40-hour week, a dollar a day wage increase, vacation rights, and other working conditions.

AUGUST. The beginnings of Local 6. Fifteen public warehousemen organize the local which is chartered as Local 38-44, International Longshoremen's Association, AFL.

1935—"The March Inland." With waterfront warehousemen successfully organized, warehouse union organizers spread or-

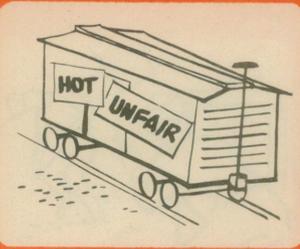
1937—JUNE. The AFL decides to split the warehouse union into separate crafts, turn it over to various AFL unions. This action would have destroyed effective warehouse organization. We refuse to be split and join the CIO.



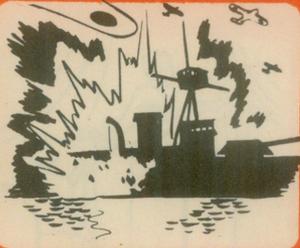


1938—APRIL. One of the world's most powerful and effective unions is officially born! First International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union convention is held at Aberdeen, Washington.

APRIL. The siege of Crockett union hall! In an attempt to raid the warehouse union AFL goons and police, armed with rubber hose, clubs and guns, sweep down on ILWU pickets. The pickets retreat to the union hall and are kept there by the goons. The next day ILWU members from San Francisco arrive in force and clear the thugs out.



AUGUST. The "Hot Cargo" lockout of San Francisco begins. Employers scheme to break the union by sending a scab-loaded box car to union warehouses. Members refuse to touch it and are locked out of their jobs. The scheme backfires and we win a Master Contract covering 300 plants and providing uniform wages, conditions, hours and vacations.



1939—OCTOBER. Security Warehouse workers in San Jose are forced out on strike. Union leaders are fired. The union takes the case to court, wins reinstatement for the fired members and back pay of more than \$15,000.



1941—DECEMBER 7. On Sunday morning Americans hear the news of the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. The U. S. declares war. We make and keep a no-strike pledge for the duration of the war.

1948—JUNE. After fruitless meetings with the employers we vote to go on strike. The strike is orderly and uneventful and we win a 10c wage increase after 7 days out.

The Rights of Labor

"Inasmuch as most good things are produced by labor, it follows that all such things of right belong to those whose labor has produced them. But it has so happened, in all ages of the world, that some have labored and others have without labor enjoyed a large proportion of the fruits. This is wrong, and should not continue. To secure to each laborer the whole product of his labor, or as nearly as possible, is a worthy object of any good government."—Abraham Lincoln.

\$ DOLLARS and SENSE QUIZ \$

What do you know about wages, prices and profits? Probably more than the bum guessers on the newspaper financial pages. Test your wits! Check the answer or answers you believe are correct. Correct answers appear at the bottom of the page.

- Prices are going:
() up. () down; () sidewise
- Since 1939 prices have gone up:
() 35%; () 74%; () 53%
- The total number of people unemployed today is about:
() 1 million; () 5 million; () 3 million
- American labor made the greatest wage gains in history in the 1936 to 1939 period. How many people were unemployed at that time?:
() 5 million; () 7 million; () 3 million
- According to the University of California Heller Committee, a family of four, to live decently and be healthy, needs a weekly wage of:
() \$43; () \$79; () \$64
- Since 1936 the profits of corporations, after paying taxes, have increased:
() 500%; () 20%; () 300%
- 52% of all corporation properties and assets in the United States are owned or controlled by a small per cent of American corporations. That small per cent is:
() 10%; () .1%; () 30%
- Only one of the following industries is **not** controlled by a monopoly which fixes the price of the product:
() automobiles; () radio sets; () meat;
() steel; () vitamin-D
- Local 6 bases its wage demand on:
() cost of living figures; () employer's ability to pay;
() a constantly rising standard of living;
() increased use of machinery
- Based on University of California Heller Committee figures on the money required for an average working family to live at a minimum of health and decency, what per cent of working families are getting a living wage?:
() 80%; () 32%; () 67%

(1) Everybody's guessing. President Truman's advisors say it's too early to say—prices may be going up again; (2) 74%; (3) 3 million; (4) 7 million; (5) \$79; (6) 500%; (7) .1%; (8) Radio sets; (9) You could check all four, or any one, and make a clear cut case for higher wages. However, our long range goal has always been to get our members a larger and larger share of the good things of life, regardless of factors like price indexes, etc.; (10) 32%, according to U. S. Bureau of Census figures. Heller Budget minimum for a working man's family of four; \$4111 per year or \$79 per week.

HELP! CALL A COMMITTEE

Running an organization with 15,000 members is a big operation, as any businessman will testify. In Local 6 there's a lot of work, and some fun, to be taken care of. The work would never get done and the fun would never get organized if it weren't for the help of the Local's committees. Nobody is forced to join a committee. But the more who do, the better the job the Local does for its members. The successful operation of this Local is a tribute to the unselfish devotion and plain hard work of more than a thousand men and women who serve on one or more of the committees. Here are some of the main committees and the work they do:

LOCAL-WIDE COMMITTEES

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD: Highest governing body of the local. Meets monthly and on call. Actions are submitted to the local-wide membership for vote.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: "Watchdog of the treasury." Checks the books and makes recommendations to the membership on finances.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE: Investigates city, county, state and federal legislation and officeholders and candidates. Recommendations are submitted to the membership for vote. Organizes action at election time.

PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Issues Local 6 "Bulletin." Submits material to ILWU "Dispatcher." Prepares special educational material and classes of all types. Publicizes actions of the Local to the community.

DIVISION COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE BOARD & STEWARDS COUNCIL: Highest governing body of the Division.

HOUSE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE: "Watchdog of the Contract." This extremely important committee investigates complaints of members, takes them up with the management, gets the conditions corrected.

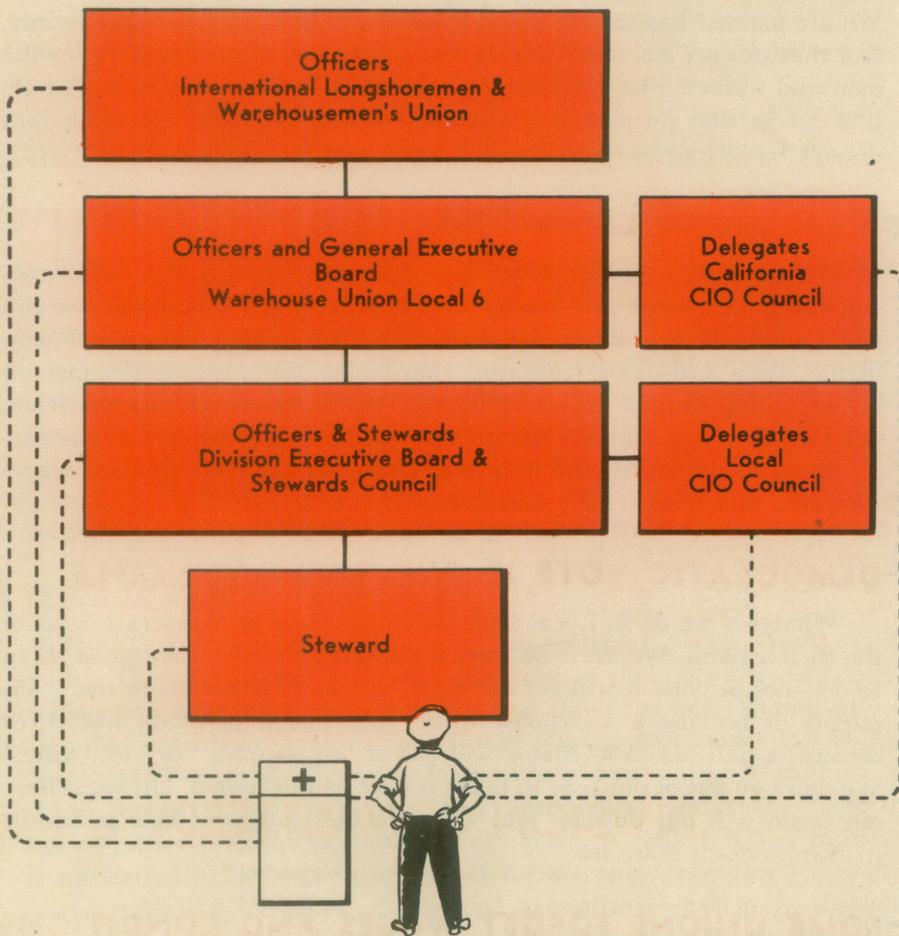
UNION GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE: "Watchdog of the Constitution." Investigates violations of the union constitution, complaints against members, etc.

HIRING HALL COMMITTEE: Recommends hiring hall rules to membership, enforces the rules, maintains the hall in good order.

WELFARE COMMITTEE: Assists members in collecting disability and unemployment insurance, helps in housing problems, visits the sick, etc.

SPORTS, RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE: Organizes and directs the sports, recreation, and entertainment of the Division.

"Brother" Member, to you!



There's no room for labor "czars" or "kings" in Local 6. Let other unions have their life-time presidents, if they want them or can't help themselves. OUR constitution expresses the democracy we believe in. We put our officers in, once a year—and we can take them out once a year, or oftener, if they forget who they're elected to represent. Every officer of the local from shop steward to president is in office because a majority of the membership, by direct vote, put them there. The officers of the international ILWU-CIO, too, are elected by direct vote of all the members of all ILWU locals. Not one action can be taken or one penny of our funds spent without our knowledge and approval. That's the REAL American, democratic way, and we like it!

WHAT DEMOCRATIC UNIONISM MEANS TO YOU . . .

We are banded together in Local 6 for one reason, and one reason only, and that's to get a better living on the job and in the community for the men and women who work in the warehouse industry. Anything we do that serves that purpose is a legitimate union function. Anything that doesn't serve that purpose is not a legitimate function.

★ ANTI-UNION LAWS COST MONEY

We've learned through bitter experience we can't look at the proposition of better wages and conditions too narrowly. We've found we can win gains at the negotiating table and lose them in Sacramento or Washington when anti-union legislators slap higher taxes on workingmen or do something to raise prices and rents. We've found we can lose when our foreign policy fouls up the foreign trade we need to give us full employment in the warehouse industry. We've prepared to fight for wages wherever and however it's necessary.

★ DEMOCRATIC VOTE IS OUR BASIC PRINCIPLE

Whatever we do in Local 6 we do on the basis of democratic vote of the membership. We do it because a majority believes it's a good thing to do—not because it will get us “good” or “bad” editorials in the newspapers or because a warehouse owner will like it or won't like it, or because a half-baked legislator will call it “respectable” or “left-wing.” We don't go out of our way to make people call us names, but we believe our business is our business and we're the best judges of how to handle it. Names don't scare us.

★ SOME UNIONS FORGET WAGES AND CONDITIONS

The way we operate is getting to be a rare thing in the union world. Some union leaders, who put on an act of being “hard” guys and real “militants,” are actually more interested in being “respectable” than they are in wages and conditions. “Tough guy” Harry Lundberg, for example, holds hands with anti-labor Senator Taft, father of the Taft-Hartley Act.

★ “RESPECTABLE” STRIKES THAT LOST

The recent oil workers strike is a good example. The international officers told the newspapers they were going to run a “respectable” strike, with no “outside” help and no “reds.” They turned down help from other CIO unions, including ILWU. But the newspapers called the

strike “red” anyway, and the cops hit the strikers over the head anyway. The cops didn't know any strike was “respectable.” The strike was lost. Good union men were blacklisted from the oil industry. But the international officers are still “respectable,” and they still have their jobs. Now that the strike is over and lost, the newspapers like them fine.

★ SPEED-UP FIGHT NOT “RESPECTABLE”

The UAW top officers are being “respectable” these days. Auto workers by the thousands are being laid off by speed-up, labor-saving machinery, shortage of materials, and because the industry is holding down production to keep auto prices up. The top UAW officers' answer to that situation is a pitch for pensions as the main contract demand this year. Pensions won't help the guys who are laid off, or the guys on the job working under worse and worse speed-up. But it's a “respectable” demand. A fight for higher wages and against speed-up wouldn't be so “respectable,” according to the newspapers, who think labor is overpaid.

★ “RESPECTABLE” SCABBING

The Teamster leadership is very “respectable.” They rarely start strikes. They just break them, like they did to their brother AFL machinists at Seattle last year, like they did to ILWU at Sears in San Francisco, like they have done to many other unions, AFL and CIO. Being “respectable” gives the Teamster leadership plenty of time to raid other unions, break strikes, sign back-door agreements, and scab on their union brothers—all “respectable” things to do. A rank-and-filer in most Teamster locals has every privilege of membership, including the right to pay initiation fee, dues, and special assessments—except he doesn't have voice or vote. In fact the Teamster leadership doesn't think it's “respectable” to consult the rank and file.

★ “WE NEVER STRIKE”

The Teamster leadership boasts that it never strikes. Except in a few democratically run locals, here and there, like the San Francisco cab drivers, the Teamster leadership figures it never has to strike. Other unions, like ILWU in the warehouse industry, will take the heat of winning the wage increases, and the Teamsters can suck right along for a free ride. Or the leadership can trade working conditions and protection against speed-up for a wage increase. Employers will go for a deal like that any time. That's the “respectable” way to run a union. Rank-and-file Teamsters don't like it, but they don't run the Teamsters union.

★ WE ACT BY MAJORITY

We in Local 6 operate differently. Our officers are elected every year for one term, not for life. They are elected by direct secret vote of the membership, not by caucus in a hotel room. We tell our officers what to do, not the other way around. We do what the majority believes is right. We sign no back-door agreements with the bosses. Our business is conducted in the open for all the membership to see, know and talk about.

★ UNIONS AND NEWSPAPERS

When the newspapers don't like what we do, we consider the source. Since when have newspapers been union labor's best friend?

★ WE DON'T RAID

We take help from anybody who honestly wants to help. We give help to any union, AFL, CIO or unaffiliated, which honestly wants our help. We build our union by organizing the **unorganized**, not by raiding the already organized.

★ STRIKE IS LAST RESORT

Nobody but a fool likes to strike. We strike only as a last resort and only by the vote of our membership, in **secret** ballot. Few unions can match our record for peaceful relations—only 13 days lost on strike in 10 years!

★ WE CAN'T BE BOUGHT!

It may not be "respectable," but we fight like hell for our wages and conditions, and the employers respect us for it. They know they're not dealing with a handful of union officials who can be bought or sold, but with our entire membership, 15,000 members and 11 counties strong!

★ IT WORKS

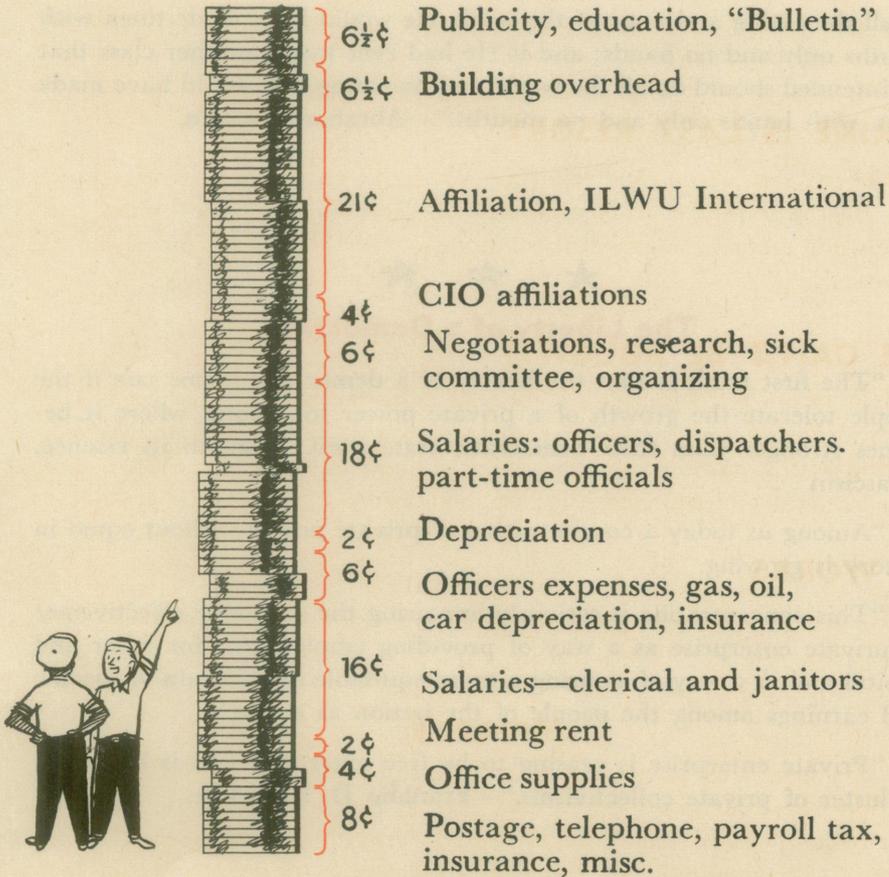
It may be an old-fashioned way to run a union, but it's the democratic way, and it works!

Monopoly

"Capitalism as an economic system can function only when competition regulates production and prices. But monopoly systemically expells competition from the market; it restricts production; it raises prices; it creates scarcity and unemployment."—Wendell Berge, formerly chief of the Antitrust Division of the U. S. Dept. of Justice.

WHAT HAPPENS to the DUES DOLLAR

Financing an organization serving 15,000 members is a big operation. In corporations a Board of Directors tells the corporation how to spend its money. In Local 6 the entire membership is the Board of Directors. No money can be spent without approval of the members. At the beginning of the year a budget is made up, estimating the income of the Local from dues and how much money will be required for the functions of the Local. During the year monthly statements are issued to the membership showing the expenditures during that month, and at the end of the year the actual expenditures for the year are checked against the budget estimates. In 1948, here's how the dues dollar was spent. Figures are rounded out to the nearest half-penny.



A FAMOUS AMERICAN SAID THAT!



Properly Conducted Unions

"But," said Mr. Hinnisy, "these open shop min ye menshun say they are fr unions iv properly conducted."

"Sure," said Mr. Dooley, "iv properly conducted. An' there ye are. An' how would they have thim conducted? No strikes, no rules, no controls, no scales, hardly any wages, an' dam few mimbers."—**Finley Peter Dunne** ("Mr. Dooley").



All Mouth And No Hands

"I hold that if the Almighty had ever made a set of men that should do all the eating and none of the work, He would have made them with mouths only and no hands; and if He had ever made another class that He intended should do all the work, and no eating, He would have made them with hands only and no mouths."—**Abraham Lincoln**.



The Liberty of a Democracy

"The first truth is that the liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of a private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic state itself. That, in its essence, is fascism . . .

"Among us today a concentration of private power without equal in history is growing.

"This concentration is seriously impairing the economic effectiveness of private enterprise as a way of providing employment for labor and capital and as a way of assuring a more equitable distribution of income and earnings among the people of the nation as a whole.

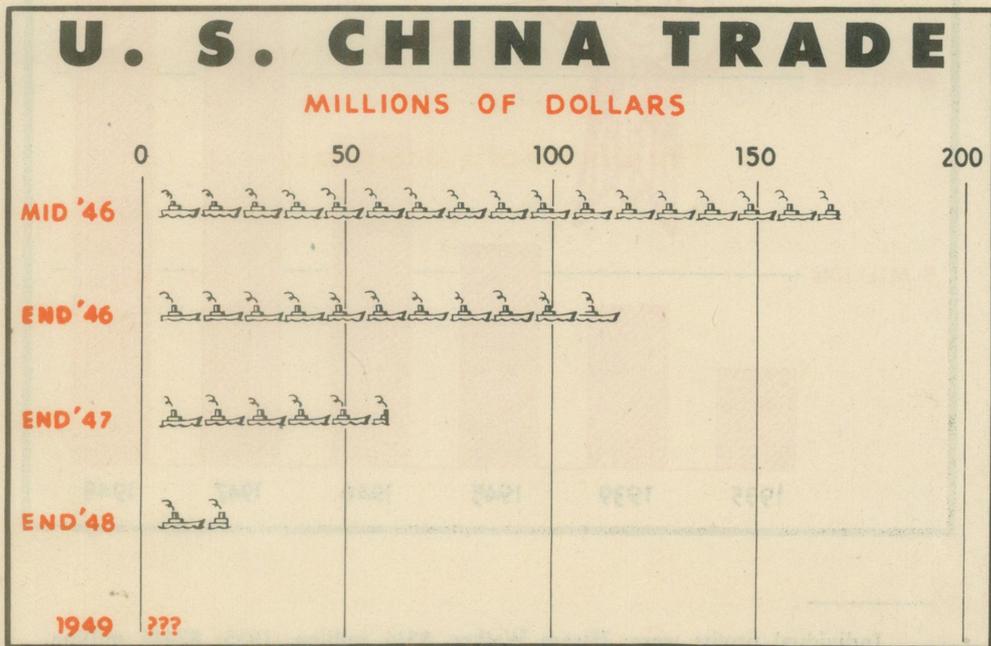
"Private enterprise is ceasing to be free enterprise and is becoming a cluster of private collectivism."—**Franklin D. Roosevelt**.

SHORT, SHORT STORY

One Big Reason Why Things Are Quiet On West Coast

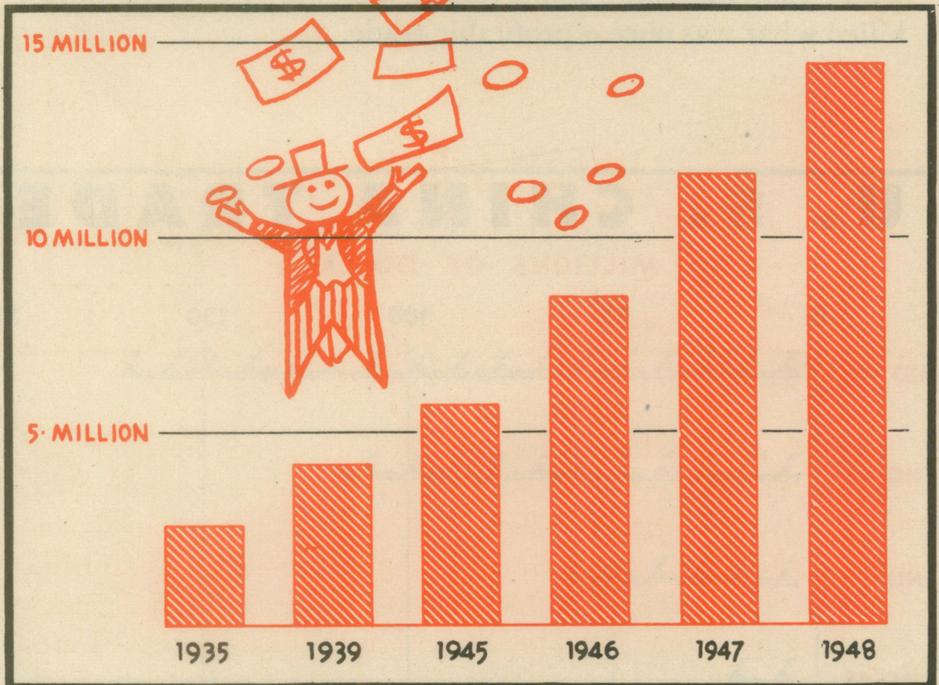
Waterfronts And Warehouses

Shipping is the life blood of the West Coast waterfront. When the shipping trade falls off, waterfront and maritime workers are unemployed and work in the warehouses slackens. Before the war the most important foreign trade on the West Coast was with the countries of the Pacific Basin, the most important of which is China. But, as shown in the chart, U. S. trade with China has fallen from around \$170 million in mid 1946 to around \$20 million at the end of 1948. And blame for the drop can be laid directly at the door of the U. S. State Department whose bungling, anti-democratic policies in Asia have almost killed what was once a profitable trade.



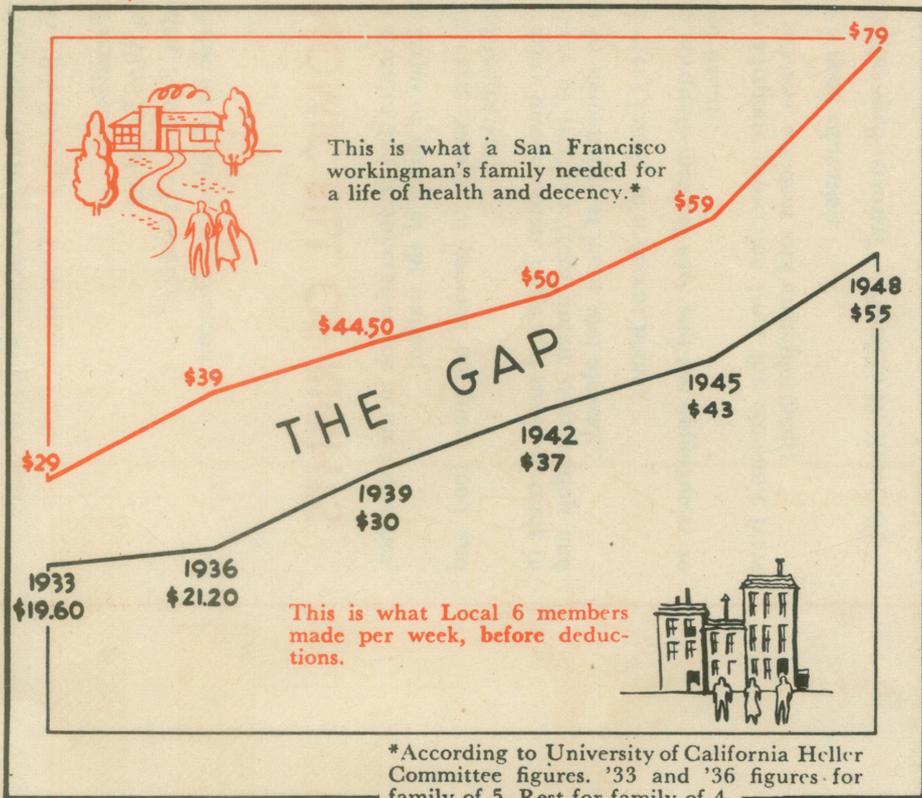
HOW HIGH IS "UP"?

At last we have an answer to that question. A look at the profits of companies under contract to Local 6 shows that "up" is as high as the market will take—and every time we buy groceries we find out that the market takes plenty. The chart below shows the average net profit, after Uncle Sam's cut, of a representative group of Local 6 employers: Hiram Walker, Best Foods, Paraffine, Crown-Zellerbach, and Colgate Palmolive Peet. The average rose from over \$2½ million in 1935 to over \$14 million in 1948, nearly 600%!



Individual profits were: Hiram Walker, \$3½ million, 1935; \$24¾ million, 1948—Best Foods, \$2 million, 1935; \$9½ million, 1948—Paraffine, \$1½ million, 1935; \$3¾ million, 1948—Crown-Zellerbach, \$1⅓ million, 1935; \$19¾ million, 1948—Colgate-Palmolive-Peet, \$4¼ million, 1935; \$19 million, 1948.

THE GREAT DIVIDE



The employers have done a lot of talking about how big our wages are. But the facts don't bear them out. At no time since our union was organized have we received enough in wages even to afford living on the budget the University of California Heller Committee calls a "minimum" for health and decency for a family of four. Even today, with wages nearly three times higher than they were in 1933, we are **\$24 a week short of the Heller Committee's minimum.** It is our aim not only to close that gap, but to get well above it. We are interested in **maximum**, not minimum, living standards!

WAREHOUSE UNION LOCAL 6—ILWU-CIO
255 - 9th Street, San Francisco 3, Calif.

Paul Heide, President

Joseph Lynch, Vice-President

Richard Lynden, Secretary-Treasurer

Jack Olson, Publicity & Education Director

ECONOMIC BILL OF RIGHTS

"The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries, or shops or farms or mines of the nation;

"The right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation;

"The right of every business man, large and small, to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair competition and domination by monopolies at home and abroad;

"The right of every family to a decent home;

"The right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve good health;

"The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accident and unemployment;

"The right to a good education.

"All of these rights spell security."—Franklin D. Roosevelt.



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