

Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union  
Int'l. (1953)

# A Message to Teamsters



from Bay Area  
Longshoremen

San Francisco, Calif., 1953

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INSTITUTE OF  
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

# SOME PLAIN TALK ABOUT OUR CITY AND OUR JOBS

TO THE TEAMSTERS OF SAN FRANCISCO AND THE BAY AREA

Dear Brothers:

It's time the longshoremen and teamsters talked things over again.

Our outfits have the biggest stake in the basic industry of San Francisco and the Bay Area — Commerce. One out of every three dollars in the community originates on the waterfront, and much of the balance comes from general trade and commerce.

Anything to promote trade and commerce helps us. Anything that drives it away, such as jurisdictional beefs, hurts

**Gains Are In Danger** our paychecks and our security. The gains of the longshoremen, teamsters, and practically every other group in organized labor, have been made through industry-wide bargaining and the result has been the best organized community in the whole country.

These gains are now in danger.

Industry-wide bargaining is on the chopping block.

The National Association of Manufacturers' formula of company-by-company bargaining; then company unionism; then open shop, has been launched in San Francisco.

And it has been launched by a handful of renegades of the labor movement.

Here are the facts:

(1) Three years ago, a group of renegades went over the hill from the original Bay Area local of warehousemen, Local 6, ILWU. They picked up a Teamster charter, Local 12. No one would call these characters "teamsters." They were looking for a fast buck. As a matter of fact, when they found the going tough, they tried to buy their way back into ILWU Local 6; the answer was "no soap."

(2) This group of renegades spent over \$300,000 — Teamster money — trying to raid Local 6. They managed to pick up some 200 people. The cost, to the Teamsters and the labor movement of this jurisdictional raid was more than \$1,500 per man!

(3) The ILWU offered to go for an industry-wide election in all warehouses; *winner take all — loser get out*. Local 12 officials turned this offer down. They were more interested in staying on the pie than in protecting the interests of labor.

(4) When the jurisdictional raid of Local 12 failed, they then offered their services to the employers to break up industry-wide bargaining. On the same day that the Local 6 contract was opened, Local 12 filed petitions in a handful of houses covering less than 200 people. Most

**Election Is Rejected** important — they asked for house by house elections. Straight down the alley of the National Association of Manufacturers! Strictly a scab service offered by the renegades of Local 12!

We don't hold the genuine Teamster membership to blame for the actions of Local 12. We know these Local 12 characters are a disgrace to the Teamsters as well as to the labor movement as a whole. Ordinarily we would brush them off, except that their present attempt through the Taft-Hartley labor board to torpedo industry-wide bargaining threatens all of us.

We have another reason for talking things over with the Teamsters. We have a pretty good pension deal — \$100 a month, plus federal social security payments, plus medical care and life insurance. But we know that these gains are not secure unless the rest of the labor movement gets them as well. In our own interests, as well as

because of our long-standing friendship with the Teamsters, we will give all-out support whenever the Teamsters' Union decides to move for a pension agreement.

We think the time has come when the older, stable outfits such as the genuine Teamster locals and the longshoremen, who make up a good part of the backbone of organized labor in the San Francisco Bay Area, set things straight around here. We ought to make clear our opposition and disgust with the Local 12 raiding program and the scab service it is offering the employers.

*(Continued on next page)*

## MONEY THAT COULD BE BETTER SPENT

In excess of \$300,000 has been thrown down the Local 12 jurisdictional rat hole. For this sum, the raids on Local 6 houses netted only 200 members. That puts the price per member in excess of \$1,500!

What if the same money was put into health insurance (welfare) or pensions?

It would provide medical and hospital coverage for one year for 3,000 teamster families.

**Renegades Are Involved**

We ought to serve notice jointly on the employers and their associations that any attempt to break down industry-wide bargaining, or to destroy industry-wide contracts, will be met by the full power of united labor.

**Use Full Power  
Of United Labor**

Above all, we've got to cut out fighting each other and join hands to drive full speed ahead for pensions and other gains to which the working man is entitled.

*Fraternally yours,*

Longshore Local 10,  
Shipsclerks Local 34,  
International Longshoremen's &  
Warehousemen's Union



**P. S.—Let's not forget how Local 12 tied up the rigs in 1950 to promote its jurisdictional raid. The teamsters lost. The city lost. Labor lost. Nobody won.**