

Longshoremen's + warehousemen's union, Int'l
(1953)

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Message to Teamsters

from Bay Area
Longshoremen

[San Francisco, Calif, 1953]

JUL 21 1953

WE'LL HELP THE TEAMSTERS GET WHAT THEY WANT

TO THE TEAMSTERS OF SAN FRANCISCO AND THE BAY AREA

Dear Brothers:

Even though we have just had a tremendous victory for warehousemen in the Bay Area, we are still gravely concerned about the future.

We are concerned because the best trade union contract in the world isn't any good if there aren't any jobs.

Waterfront Jobs Are in Peril

This is a matter of mutual concern, because waterfront jobs are now in peril through loss of freight for West Coast ports and ships.

The gains just won by Local 6 of the ILWU were won because the unity in Local 6 ranks and the all-out support of other ILWU locals were allowed to pay-off while there was a temporary respite from phoney jurisdictional beefs and raids.

What those gains were is set forth in the box in the middle of this page. Take a look at them!

Teamsters, Seamen Can Have Pensions

To protect and extend and implement those gains, we think it is time that you and we determine once and for all that we will not waste our energies fighting each other. Also, that we will not allow self-seeking labor disrupters to provoke us into senseless and costly conflicts.

For our part, as we said in the first open letter recently, we are ready to help you win the same or better gains in health and welfare, pensions, wages and other conditions, just as they have been won in longshore and warehouse.

We're not telling you what to do or not to do, but we realize that our union security or pensions, or health program will be in constant danger until all other workers in this area are enjoying the same or similar conditions.

If the longshoremen can have pensions, so can the teamsters and the seamen.

It's No Time For Any Capers

But you'll never get what's rightfully coming to you, and we'll not be able to hold on to what we have—much less get more—if we fight among ourselves. We think it makes a lot of sense that National AFL and CIO have reached a no-raiding agreement.

Now, with a truce shaping up in Korea, Pacific shipping is going to take a nose dive. And all of us whose work is built around the waterfront are going to suffer. This is certainly no time to indulge in any capers which will drive work to the rails and to East and Gulf Coast ships and ports.

Yet, that is exactly what is happening as a result of the recurring jurisdictional beefs on the front.

Lundeberg's Gone Off His Rocker

Harry Lundeberg has gone completely off his rocker in blowing up phoney jurisdictional beefs and then in working out deals with Taft and some of the other anti-labor characters in the Eisenhower administration.

The fact is that there's nothing in any of these deals for the rank and file workers, no matter how much Lundeberg thinks they help build him up to be the West Coast waterfront czar, or to be the new Republican ambassador to Norway for which he is dickering.

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WHAT ILWU WON IN WAREHOUSE

(1) A prepaid medical plan — with the employers picking up the full tab — which covers every member including the family. The casual workers, as well as the permanently employed, are covered.

(2) A \$1,000 insurance policy.

(3) A union shop with no changes in the hiring hall.

(4) Improvements in vacations for the season and casual workers who never received paid vacations before.

(5) A wage increase of 6 ½ c per hour across the board. This raises the minimum wage to \$1.80 for men and \$1.62½ for women.

Longshoremen, shipclerks, dock and terminal workers —all worked together with the warehousemen to put across this victory. As a result, the warehousemen now have a three year contract; and the longshore contract has also just been extended to 1955.

Whatever you teamsters want to fight for in the way of economic gains and better conditions is your business. Whatever it is, we'll back you up and help you in every way we can.

Fraternally yours,

Longshore Local 10,

Shipsclerks Local 34,

Warehouse Local 6,

International Longshoremen's &
Warehousemen's Union

*An Injury to One
Is An Injury to All-*

*It's the same
with Gains!*

