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BUF, 7-Up reach accord: Boycott called off



Portland Bottling Company affirmative action plan gains approval of Black United Front: Rev. John Jackson, co-chair, BUF; George Rouches,

president, Portland Bottling Company; Ronnie Herndon, co-chair, BUF; Andrew D. Hrestu, owner, Portland Bottling Company.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Politics is the problem, solution

Politics is the problem and politics is the solution, Keith W. Johnson, president of the International Woodworkers of America, AFL-CIO told delegates to the union's national convention in Portland.

The union has faced many problems in its 47-year history, Johnson said, "for all of our successes, for all of our programs, in 1984, we are being besieged by a threat so immediate and so severe that the things we have taken for granted in our union, our jobs and our lives are on the verge of being destroyed. The problem—and the solution—is politics."

The focus of the problem in the U.S. is Ronald Reagan, he said.

Since Ronald Reagan has been in office, 30 million workers have been unemployed at some time. Mortgage foreclosures are at their highest since records have been kept; business failures are four times the 1970 rate and the highest

since 1931. Over 100 million persons have lost their food stamps; 4 million have lost some of their food stamps; 15 percent are below the poverty line (the worst in 17 years); 1.5 million needy infants were put off AFDC; 900,000 children lost school breakfasts; 5 percent was cut for medicare and medicaid and 22 percent from other health programs. "The statistics of pain."

Calling on the union to become actively involved in the political process, he added, "Can collective bargaining or picket line militancy continue to be an effective response?" To make sure that the wealth of the nation is reconcentrated in the hands of a few, the legal muscles of the trade unions is being stripped away. To aid in the defeat of Reagan, the IWA has organized a political PAC—called IWA WOODPAC—to raise and distribute funds for political action.

By 1983, Reagan appointees dominated the National Labor

Relations Board and the processing of cases declined by 50 percent "while the workers wait and suffer."

The dominant political forces are not only wounding the people of the U.S. and Canada, Johnson said, "but the virus of politically-inspired corporate concentration in the U.S. and Canada infects the entire world. Facism here breeds facism there. Exactly the same 'leaders' who would repress the workers into submission at home would bomb them into submission abroad—especially if they are Black, yellow or brown."

"The working people want peace. It is our sons and daughters who are the cannon fodder for invasions, occupations or interventions to save the profits of United Fruit Company, the Exxons and the Alcons. It is our jobs that are being consumed by the huge gulps of military profiteering."

Longshoremen face cut-back demands

SAN FRANCISCO—"Hold the line or advance" will be the debate confronting longshoremen on the West Coast as thousands of waterfront workers prepare for contract expiration this summer.

Longshoremen are confronted by the wholesale offensive on labor and union contracts by the employers with the support of the Reagan Administration, the slow erosion of dock work due to automation, and tonnage and profits skyrocketing with fewer and fewer workers on the dock.

"The Coast Committee stated that we must not accept any take-aways," a San Francisco Local 10 longshore bulletin said Feb. 24.

The Coast Committee is the standing body of representatives from various longshore locals, dealing

with the employers' representative called the Pacific Maritime Assn.

Because of automation, the ILWU won a Pay Guarantee Plan (PGP) in the 1960's, assuring longshore workers pay for a number of hours a week, whether they work or not. Because longshore work is erratic—sometimes no work, sometimes working up to 16 hours—the guarantee was negotiated to pay the workers for being available at all times.

Grating on many longshore workers is the cap, or limit, of money made available by the employers for the PGP. The Local 10 Bulletin said, "As of Jan. 28, 1984, the Coast PGP fund was \$4,481,353.27 in the red. This is PGP money that is owing the Coast longshoremen and hasn't been paid.

It was agreed that such a deficit couldn't be made up by July 1, 1984 (contract expiration)."

Since some ports depend on the PGP more than others because of the way the shipping companies manipulate work, the PGP has been used by the employers as a divisive issue.

Many longshore workers say that removing the cap on the guarantee would end the possibility of short-falls and unite the coast longshore workers.

Many longshore workers insist that the cap on the PGP is a built in takeaway in the present contract and should be removed.

Another line of thinking in the longshore industry, expressed by East and West Coast longshoremen, is the need to shorten the work day, thus providing work for all

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W.—The Black community is feeling good once more about 7-Up, as a year-old boycott on Portland Bottling Company was called off Tuesday, March 27th, with a comprehensive affirmative action plan developed jointly by the Black United Front and Portland Bottling Company.

George Rouches, president of Portland Bottling Company said, "This is the 20th century and we are just bringing our hiring practices in-to line."

In January, 1983, the Black United Front called for a citywide boycott of 7-Up, A&W, Squirt, Perrier, Nehi and R.C. Cola, when it was discovered that no Blacks were employed.

Ron Herndon, co-chair of the BUF, said the result was a "victory for the Black community," and complimented and praised Portland Bottling Company for, "the most progressive affirmative action plan in Portland."

"What makes this plan progressive is the statistical infor-

played is based on data from the City of Portland rather than the standard metropolitan statistical area."

Herndon said affirmative action plans based on the metropolitan area are substantially lower because it includes five counties thus diluting the number of Blacks.

Stan Har, controller of Portland Bottling Company, said the boycott resulted in a loss in vending and restaurant accounts. "Also, we noticed a reduction in consumption used to determine the number of Blacks which should be employed from time to time, received phone calls from people stating they would not buy the product."

Hart said owner Andrew D. Hrestu was a fair man. "We just did not have enough Blacks. However, it was never by design. Our openings were filled through word of mouth. It was easier, but a wrong way to hire."

The new affirmative action plan will seek minority representation in every job category, with quarterly reports given to the Black United Front. Currently, there are 7 Blacks

employed by Portland Bottling.

Initially, the BUF and Portland Bottling Company agreed to an alternate lay-off plan, "since those Blacks who were the last hired would have been the first to be laid off. We agreed to alternate the layoff with the last hired Black worker, then the last hired white worker," Herndon explained.

But the concept was run over by the Teamsters Union, which told Hart that it would violate their contract and have legal ramifications. So far, there have been two Blacks laid off for periods not exceeding one week.

Herndon said the Portland Bottling Company has challenged other companies to come into the 20th century. This challenge is being met by NIKE. On Friday, March 30th, another joint press conference will be called to announce NIKE's affirmative action plan, economic development, advertising, banking and corporate assistance to the Black community.

However, for now, the Black community is saying, "Don't you feel good about 7-Up."

Jesse Jackson "movin' on up"

Jesse Jackson has won the popular vote in each of the last four in-the-race primaries for the Democratic nomination for President. According to Eric Easter, deputy press secretary of the Jesse Jackson for President Committee in Washington, D.C., Jackson's latest victory came in the Virginia primary, Saturday, where Jackson took 32 percent of the popular vote followed by Mondale with 29 percent; uncommitted with 28 percent and Hart with only 14 percent.

Easter told the *Observer*, Tuesday, that Jackson's latest victory comes on the heels of recent

victories in Arkansas, Mississippi, and South Carolina. Easter noted the major media is ignoring these significant victories and is concentrating instead on the horserace between the two candidates leading in the delegate counting.

Though the major media is writing off Jackson as simply a Black candidate, rather than the Rainbow candidate his supporters claim he is, Jackson claimed at least

15 percent of the white vote in Virginia.

Democratic party rules, however, are so structured that even though Jackson has won the popular vote in the four contests mentioned above, he fell behind in the delegate process. In Mississippi, for instance, Jackson led Mondale in the popular vote by 8,435 to 4,196, but Mondale won 31.5 delegates, and Jackson 27.5

March scheduled

The Fourth Annual March Against Racist Violence will be held on Saturday, April 7, 1984. The March will begin at 12:00 noon in Alberta Park (19th and Killingsworth) and will end with a rally at King Park, (4815 N.E. 7th).

In 1984, the March will address the international ramification of racist violence as well as institutionalized racist violence and its effects on disenfranchised citizens throughout the United States.



Rena Hawley, 2, attending rally for Jesse Jackson presidential campaign with her father, Sam, puts her last dollar in the collection plate. Volunteers are needed for the state-wide voter registration drive March 31st. Portland area volunteers meet at St. Andrews School, 4919 N.E. 9th (near Alberta) at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.