

PORTS: McDonald's in Japan began rationing fries because of potato shortage

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and-file. They work 29 ports from San Diego to Seattle that handle about one-quarter of all U.S. international trade, much of it with Asia.

Negotiators for the union and the Pacific Maritime Association, which represents ocean-going shipping lines and the companies that load and unload cargo at terminals ports, began talking formally in May. Their prior six-year contract expired July 1.

The maritime association did not have immediate comment Friday.

After initial signs of progress, in the fall employers publicly charged dockworkers with creating a congestion crisis to gain bargaining leverage by slowing their work rate and withholding the most skilled workers. The union responded that its members were working safely and blamed the jam on broader dysfunction at West Coast ports that predated contract talks, notably a lack of truck beds to tow containers from dockside yards to distribution warehouses.

By January, the maritime association's members stopped ordering night work crews to load and unload ships, saying that smaller groups would focus on clearing the thicket of containers already on the docks.

Union members called it an attempt to hurt workers in their pocketbooks; their negotiators soon agreed to the involvement of a federal mediator.

The slowdown-vs.-lockout dynamic was the kind of brinkmanship familiar to past negotiations between two sides with a history of conflict, dating to the killing of dockworkers during the Great Depression. How much responsibility for the congestion each side bears may never be determined, but their animosity magnified the crisis.

In early February, the CEO of the maritime association publicly warned that if no agreement could be reached, employers would stop calling workers and shut down the ports within days. Weekend and holiday lockouts of many longshoremen followed, though major ports were not fully closed.

Instead, cargo trickled through. Massive ocean-going ships anchored off the coast of Los Angeles and near the ports of Oakland and Seattle — waiting for berths they anticipated occupying after the long haul across the Pacific that instead were taken by ships whose unloading

harbors, with similar scenes in San Francisco Bay and Washington's Puget Sound. The scenes were reminiscent of a 2002 worker lockout that shuttered West Coast ports for 10 days.

Though negotiations between the two sides typically involve public theatrics, U.S. businesses grew increasingly antsy as talks ground out. Groups representing retailers warned that some holiday goods might be delayed; thanks to advanced planning, trouble on the waterfront didn't steal Christmas.

Still, there were broader economic repercussions.

Farm exports suffered — McDonald's in Japan, for example, began rationing fries because of a potato shortage. Apple, walnut and hay producers all said they were losing out to foreign competitors. The meat industry tallied its losses in the tens of millions of dollars. Importers of furniture, books, clothing — even Mardi Gras beads — said their products were stuck on the docks. Honda Motor Co. cut production because of a parts shortage. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. warned that Easter goodies could be affected.

After a federal mediator couldn't broker an agreement, the Obama administration dispatched Labor Secretary Thomas Perez to oversee talks this week in San Francisco, where both the union and maritime association are based. After a few days, he warned negotiators that if they didn't seal a deal by midnight Friday, he'd haul them back to Washington to find a resolution.

With so much at stake, outsiders puzzled over why the talks took so long. A summer deal on health care benefits — longshoremen enjoy complete coverage, and the cost of it was expected to be a big sticking point — seemed to portend quick progress. But negotiations stalled on issues including what future jobs would fall under the control of the union, which worries that automation at the ports will erode its membership.

In the end, the disagreement boiled down to the system for resolving allegations of work slowdowns, discrimination and other conflicts at the ports. The union wanted to get rid of the man who arbitrates disputes in Southern California and proposed changes to the arbitration systems that would accomplish that; the maritime association rejected those suggestions — though eventually the two sides found a compromise.

Pasco police shooting stirs protests

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press



AP Photo/Nicholas K. Geranios

A protest sign is displayed in front of City Hall in Pasco, Wash., the city where Antonio Zambrano-Montes, an unarmed man who was running away from police at a crowded intersection, was fatally shot by police on Feb. 10.

PASCO, Wash. — The rallying cry in Ferguson was “Hands up, don’t shoot!” In New York, it was “I can’t breathe!” In Pasco these days, the protest signs say things like “It was just a rock!!!”

In a case with unmistakable echoes of Ferguson and New York, demonstrators have gathered every day over the past week in front of City Hall to demand answers in the deadly police shooting of Antonio Zambrano-Montes, a 35-year-old Mexican immigrant and former orchard worker who authorities say was throwing rocks at officers.

The Feb. 10 killing — captured on cellphone video by an onlooker — was the fourth by law enforcement officers in Pasco in less than a year. It has sparked calls for a federal investigation and roiled this fast-growing agricultural city of 68,000, where more than half the residents are Hispanic but few are members of the police force or the power structure.

Protesters and police officials alike say they want to avoid the violence and

acrimony that happened in Ferguson, Missouri, last year when officers shot and killed an unarmed black 18-year-old.

“We will continue to be calm, until they give us a reason not to,” said protester Hector Alamillo, 62, of Pasco. “We are not a Ferguson. We will not burn things down.”

But Alamillo said Hispanics are “very distrustful right now” and are wondering why officers did not use non-lethal force to subdue Zambrano-Montes.

In the cellphone video, Zambrano-Montes is seen running across a busy street,

pursued by three officers. As he stops and turns around, gunshots ring out and he falls dead.

While the shooting is under investigation by a regional task force — and being watched by the FBI — police have said that Zambrano-Montes had hit two officers with rocks and had refused to put down other stones. They also said a stun gun failed to subdue him.

The case has cast a spotlight on the ethnic makeup of working-class Pasco, an apple-, grape- and potato-growing center about 220 miles from Seattle that has more than doubled in size since

2000.

The city is more than 55 percent Hispanic; many members of the community flocked here from Mexico to work in the fields and at food-processing plants. Starting in the 1960s and '70s, many of those migrant workers settled downtown. Pasco's modest downtown is now lined with Mexican restaurants, bakeries and clothing stores, and city business is conducted in English and Spanish.

The police force of 71 uniformed officers has just 15 Hispanics, and only one person on the seven-member City Council is Hispanic.

Once a hotbed of gang- and drug-related violence, the city has seen crime plummet in the past 20 years, in large part because the Hispanic community worked with police to drive out the bad guys, said police Capt. Ken Roske. But there are worries that future cooperation will be jeopardized if the investigation clears the officers.

“We are asking for more training for our officers,” said protester Lorian Reaveley, 39, of Pasco, who stood in front of a sign reading “Stop Police Brutality. It was just a rock!!!”

BROWN: Will announce new secretary of state by March 6

Continued from 1A

munities. Kitzhaber had proposed spending more than \$200 million on projects related to irrigated agriculture, forest products research and sage grouse habitat over the next biennium.

Brown was sworn in as governor on Wednesday, following Kitzhaber's resignation amid criminal investigations into allegations of influence peddling by the governor and his fiancée, Cylvia Hayes. During the press conference Friday she spoke about Oregon's death row, ethics reform and fuel standard legislation.

On death row, Brown said she will continue Oregon's moratorium on executions, a policy initiated in 2011 by Kitzhaber.

Oregon needs to have “a broader discussion” about the death penalty and criminal justice system, the governor said. Kitzhaber put a moratorium on executions in 2011. There are currently 34 people on death row in Oregon.

Brown, who was secretary of state before Kitzhaber's resignation, said she will announce by March 6 the appointment of a new secretary

of state to serve the remainder of her term. The governor deflected a question about whether she will run for election in 2016, saying she needs to focus on the work at hand.

Brown also fielded questions about her proposed ethics and public records reforms, and legislation approved by the state Senate this week that would make permanent Oregon's low-carbon fuel standard.

Republicans have called for that bill to be put on hold pending investigations of Kitzhaber and Hayes, because some of the groups that paid Hayes for consulting work have also worked on campaigns to support the fuel standard legislation.

Brown declined to say whether she would sign the fuel standard legislation, Senate Bill 324, if it reaches her desk. But she did signal her support.

“In terms of clean fuels, the Legislature passed the original clean fuels bill in 2009,” Brown said. “For me, clean fuels translates into cleaner air for Oregonians. I think that's a good thing.”

The governor said employees in her administra-

tion will not be allowed to receive outside compensation for state business, and she is looking into options to provide more resources and independence to the Oregon Government Ethics Commission. Three members of the ethics commission are direct appointees of the governor, and four are selected by the party caucuses in the Legislature.

Brown said “the governor gets to essentially veto the caucus leaders appointments to the government ethics commission. I think that needs to change.”

Brown, a Democrat, said it is encouraging to see ethics reform proposals from both Republican and Democratic lawmakers.

“I am optimistic this can be a bipartisan effort,” Brown said.

Earlier this week, Rep. Jodi Hack, R-Salem, announced she is working on a concept for legislation to create a process for lawmakers to impeach the governor. Oregon is currently the only state without a process to impeach the state executive, according to a press release from Hack.

If Hack's proposal passes

the state House and Senate, it would then be referred to voters in a general election because it would require an amendment to the Oregon Constitution.

Meanwhile, Brown has also called for the state to strengthen laws “to ensure the timely release of public documents.”

She said on Friday that senior policy adviser Gina Zedjlik will work on this issue along with ethics reform proposals. Chris Pair, a spokesman for Brown, said governor's office will also bring in two Oregon Department of Justice employees to help tackle the backlog of public records requests submitted by news organizations and others when Kitzhaber was still in office.

On a personal note, Brown said she and her husband, first gentleman Dan Little, are in the process of moving from Portland to Salem.

“Mr. Little and I are very excited about moving into Mahonia Hall,” Brown said, referring to the governor's mansion.

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