

SOME EARLY RESPONSES OF NOTE . . .

Monthly Review Press

MR

62 West 14th Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
(212) 691-2555

Herb Mills
2828 Cherry Street
Berkeley
California 94705

January 13 1975.

Dear Herb Mills,

Harry Braverman would like yo be writing to you himself but is still not well enough.

He did read your piece with more than interest, with fascination, because of the rarity of descriptions of this kind. He was a bit put off by the academic overlay to your style, which might otherwise be very good. He urges you to read his book Labor and Monopoly Capital if you have not already done so, since it might well be that in that book, the framework for the kind of thing that interests you is developed. He would like to hear more from you and read more, if you are so disposed.

Again, he apologizes for not writing himself and thanks you for sending the material and wishes you well.

In friendship,
Judy Ruben
Judy Ruben.

P.S. Shall I return the material to you or may we keep it?
If I do not hear to the contrary, I shall assume that we may keep it.

J.R.

62 West 14th Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
(212) 691-2555

June 2 1976.

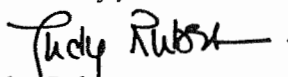
Herb Mills
2828 Cherry Street
Berkeley
California 94705

Dear Herb Mills,

Harry Braverman was in the office for one day and read about one-half of your latest installment. It seems to him to be "a textbook case of what he was writing about." He has taken the material with him to the country where he is spending most of his time trying to regain strength.

He sends you his fraternal greetings and his thanks.

Sincerely,


Judy Ruben.

Monthly Review Press



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Herb Mills
2828 Cherry Street
Berkeley, Ca. 94705

July 27 1976

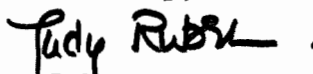
Dear Herb Mills,

Thank you for sending Part Two of your manuscript to Harry. He is still not strong enough to write himself.

He finds your manuscript fascinating -- a textbook case of what he wrote about in Labor and Monopoly Capital. He wonders about your working up the book for the public -- have you thought of this? Of course this would mean changing the present form. Let us know if you decide to do this.

Meanwhile, he sends you his best regards.

In friendship,


Judy Ruben.

SIU



AFFILIATED WITH THE SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA • AFL-CIO

SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION ATLANTIC • GULF • LAKES AND INLAND WATERS DISTRICT

350 FREMONT STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105 • (415) 543-5855

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LINDSEY WILLIAMS
VICE-PRESIDENT

January 31, 1979

Mr. Herb Mills, Secretary-Treasurer
ILWU, Local 10
400 North Point Street
San Francisco, California 94133

Dear Brother Mills:


I have just read your article, entitled "The Future of Bay Area Ports, appearing in the "Examiner" today, January 31, 1979.

You have certainly hit the nail on the head, particularly in your remarks about Seattle and Puget Sound, as well as what you said in regard to Los Angeles being a rail head for the mini-bridge.

However, I must disagree with your remarks regarding the Port of San Francisco. I am convinced, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that lack of knowledge, laziness, and plain ignorance have caused the Port of San Francisco to deteriorate maritime-wise.

As far as I am concerned, the only man serving on the Port Commission in the last 20 years who knew what he was doing, and practiced what he preached, or had any knowledge of the maritime industry whatsoever has been Harry Bridges. It is too bad that we stack our port commissions with insurance brokers, ambulance chasers, and fuzzy-headed newspaper reporters who don't understand the trade routes of the world. Neither do they understand the products that are shipped on the trade routes of the world, nor do they know how to promote a port in Manila, Singapore, Hong Kong, or any other Far Eastern port. Ribbon clerks who serve on these commissions have allowed more than one port to deteriorate. They use these jobs for prestige and graft, in many cases, instead of taking care of their business of developing the port.

However, your article is a good article, and it is evident that you have done your home work. We need more people like you to speak out.

Sincerely,

Ed Turner, Representative

SAM KAGEL
JOHN KAGEL
BARBARA CHVANY

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February 1, 1979

Mr. Herb Mills, Secretary-Treasurer
ILWU LOCAL 10
400 North Point Street
San Francisco, California 94133

Dear Herb:

Congratulations on the fine article and analysis about the Port that appeared in the S.F. EXAMINER.

I do believe that Local 10 should, and I hope it will, reproduce this article in pamphlet form to be distributed throughout the Bay Area. There is so much "guff" being passed around, holding the Union "responsible" for the alleged condition of the Port that I believe the record has to be set straight, and I think your article does that superbly.

Regards,



Sam Kagel

SK:djs

It should be noted that Sam Kagel served the ILWU and the Pacific Maritime Association as their Pacific Coast Arbitrator from 1948 to 2002 - H. Mills



SENATE OF CALIFORNIA

SENATOR MILTON MARKS
OF
SAN FRANCISCO

ROOM 2070
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO 95814

February 2, 1979

Mr. Herb Mills
ILWU Local 10
301 Beach Street
San Francisco, California 94133

Dear Herb,

I was most interested to read your per-
ceptive and well-written articles in Other
Voices.

As you know I have a deep interest in
our port. As Chairman of the Senate Select
Committee on Maritime Industry I found them
especially informative.

I hope that you will call me whenever
you have suggestions about our port or other
matters. My district office number is 557-
1437.

Cordially,


MILTON MARKS

MM:ctly

Yale University *New Haven, Connecticut 06520*

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

237 Hall of Graduate Studies

(203) 436-1282

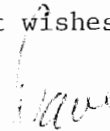
May 17, 1980

Dear Brother Mills,

Many thanks for sending me the offprints and pamphlets dealing with job control on the docks. They represent just the kind of study I need and enjoy.

I have no idea when I may be able to make my way out to San Francisco again, but you can be sure that when I do, I will take you up on your offer for a look at the union, docks and ships.

Best wishes,



David Montgomery

THE NEW ZEALAND WATERSIDE WORKERS' FEDERATION INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKERS

President: R. FERGUS

Gen. Secretary: E. G. THOMPSON

Telephones:

Head Office: 850-792

Private: 686-856

BOX 27004, WELLINGTON

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "WINCH" WELLINGTON

6th Floor

WATERSIDE HOUSE

220 Willis Street

WELLINGTON

20 August 1980

Mr Herb Mills,
2617 Hillogas,
Apartment 1 -B,
Berkeley, California, 94705,
U.S.A.

Dear Herb,

Information

Have read the articles you were kind enough to provide.

Your journalese is excellent and when I read of your qualifications and see how you have combined these with job experience and a class approach I was enthralled and while much of the material was akin to an obituary for the conventional areas of a port where the guts of much in the way of working class history and progress which we have exploited and built on for years was developed you have posed many of the questions for which we have to produce answers.

I will, hopefully when I re-read and assess your material write to you at more length.

As this stage problems that are known are more easily handled and while we all are aware of the demise of the past and the impact of the new to have it set out, compared, analysed and projected for thought is a sound contribution to working class politics.

I am indebted to your understanding and courtesy.

I have received a letter from Jim Herman advising that he is definitely going to attend our Conference in October and he will be most welcome.

Kind regards.

Yours fraternally,



E.G.Thompson
General Secretary

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA ILWU PENSIONERS

400 NORTH POINT STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94133



September 15, 1980

Herb Mills, Secretary
ILWU Local 10
400 North Point Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94133

Dear Herb:

The membership of the S.F. Bay Area ILWU Pensioners want to thank you as an author of "THE MEN ALONG THE SHORE" for publishing the story in the S.F. Chronicle and the S.F. Examiner.

The story was very informative to the general public and brought back many memories to the old timers.

Many thanks Herb for your story we all enjoyed.

I remain,

Fraternally,

Robert Rohatch
President

opeu-29

WATERSIDE WORKERS' FEDERATION

OF AUSTRALIA

C. H. FITZGIBBON
General Secretary

—
N. DOCKER
Asst. General Secretary

In reply please quote
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377-383 SUSSEX STREET, SYDNEY
POST OFFICE BOX 344, HAYMARKET, 2000
61-9134 267 9134

T. I. BULL
Federal Organiser

L. LENANE
Federal Organiser

—
Telex 25645

November 24th, 1980

Mr Herb Mills,
Secretary- Treasurer,
Local 10,
ILWU,
400 North Point,
San Francisco,
CALIFORNIA, 94133
U.S.A.

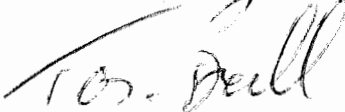
Dear Herb,

Thank you for your note and attached material published in
'California Living', forwarded to Norm and myself.

I hope I told you in my earlier letter when forwarding on the
Hursey story that I found your papers the best and easiest to
read on waterfront developments that I have ever come across.
If I forgot, I'm sorry, if I did tell you earlier I repeat it.

Best wishes to you and your colleagues.

Fraternal greetings,



Tas Bull.

THE NEW ZEALAND WATERSIDE WORKERS FEDERATION
INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKERS

(Please address all correspondence To The General Secretary)

President: R. FERGUS

Gen. Secretary: S. P. JENNINGS

Telephones:

Head Office: 850-792

Private: Porirua 77-704

BOX 27004, WELLINGTON

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "WINCH" WELLINGTON

6th Floor
WATERSIDE HOUSE
220 Willis Street
WELLINGTON

12 December 1980

Mr Herb Mills
2617, Hillogass,
Apartment 1 -B
Berkeley California 94705,
U.S.A.

Dear Herb,

Appreciation

Again many thanks for the articles on the history of the Frisco Waterfront.

I have been enthralled by the factual descriptions, compressed into attractive format, comfortable for laymen to digest and understand and a delight for any class conscious person to savour whether they need reminding or not from where we came and what lay the other side of the sunset.

The history of the San Francisco waterfront is little different from and infact the events have a remarkable similarity with, the path of progress with the ports of Auckland, Wellington, Melbourne and Sydney.

To have the detail chronicled in a responsible form with appropriate anecdotal additives is a beneficial service to working class development which in time will be appreciated far beyond the borders of the U.S. just as the events on the Frisco Waterfront in the middle and latter part of the decade of the 30's were avidly followed with great interest and appreciation by the international working class particularly from the Transport sectors.

Keep at it Herb.

I am passing through Los Angeles on a quick trip to London on I.T.F. business and will post this note from there.

I think I indicated to you my intentions and I have stepped down from the position of General Secretary of the N.Z.W.W.Federation. I am staying with the Federation until I finally retire late next year in an advisory capacity.

Our new Secretary Sam Jennings is, like myself a former seafarer, he is very experienced and is a friend of Willie Zenn, they attended a Conference together in Tokyo about four years ago.

Kind regards and Fraternal Greetings.

All the best for the Festive Season.

F. C. (Bob) Thompson

Y. C. Thompson

WATERSIDE WORKERS' FEDERATION
OF AUSTRALIA



C. H. FITZGIBBON
General Secretary

N. DOCKER
Asst. General Secretary

In reply please quote
Ref. No.ND/ve.....

T. I. BULL
Federal Organiser

L. LENANE
Federal Organiser

Telex 25645

365-375 [REDACTED] SUSSEX STREET, SYDNEY
POST OFFICE BOX 344, HAYMARKET, 2000
[REDACTED]
267-9134

26 May 1981

Mr H. Mills,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Local 10,
International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union,
400 North Point,
SAN FRANCISCO. CALIFORNIA U.S.A. 94133

Dear Herb,

I am sorry that I have been so dilatory in acknowledging the articles which you have so kindly forwarded to me.

I got much interest from reading the documents and was particularly helped in understanding the history of your waterfront by the article jointly written by yourself and David Wellman.

I have not yet had an opportunity of reading "The Waterfront Writer" but look forward to doing so.

The articles and the book will find an honoured place in our Federation library.

Best wishes.

Yours fraternally,

N. Docker,
Assistant General Secretary

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "WINCH" WELLINGTON

6th Floor

WATERSIDE HOUSE

220 Willis Street

WELLINGTON

31 July 1981

Mr Herb Mills
Secretary Treasurer
Local 10
International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union
400 North Point
San Francisco,
California 94133
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Herb

FRATERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

Many thanks for your friendly note and introduction to Mike Miller and Peter Franck.

Their stay in New Zealand was far too short, however they have managed to see a fair slice of territory. I regret that their stopover in Wellington was only an air-port one but they had by telephone ascertained that I would be arriving back from a trip to Auckland and we met and had a most interesting - fraternal - and convivial 50 minutes together at Wellington before their flight to Christchurch left.

Their purpose in visiting Christchurch which is a city in the South Island was to stay briefly with some new friends they met on their flight to New Zealand. I was able to arrange for them to meet the Secretary of the Lyttelton Waterside Workers Union - a Branch of this Federation - Lyttelton is the Port for Christchurch City. We have been informed that they were met and were given whatever assistance was practical in the brief time at their disposal.

Our Lyttelton Secretary Mel Foster is a Canadian from Vancouver and has a brother who is an I.L.W.U. member, I think at New Westminster.

Herb, it was really good to meet Mike and Peter and they had quite accurately assessed much of our political and social scene which is in a state of near turmoil arising from, and centred around, a tour of this country by a Rugby football team from Racist controlled South Africa. Both Mike and Peter concluded that the impression New Zealand seeks to project to the world that we are a multi-racial equalitarian society is in fact a veneer of illusion and that at Government level we are strongly class orientated in favour of those who have, and biased against the under privileged and this bias has an added emphasis if the particular under privileged are coloured citizens.

However the combined efforts of the protest movement which comprises the trade-unions, unfortunately not all the members of the unions, the majority of church-leaders, much of the Labour Party, and all progressives is having a strong effect upon Government and the Rugby tour sponsors. Opposition has been very effective and a major game has been cancelled and the South African touring party are under heavy police protection at all times. Incidentally they are scheduled to play 3 games in the U.S.A. on their return home. To their credit the Australian Government would not allow this team to come to New Zealand via Australia although this has more to do with future profits from impending international sporting events to be held in Australia than from any real objection to the attitudes and policies of the Racist South African Government.

I owed you a letter Herb, thanks for the writings you have sent me also the book I have enjoyed the reading, your assessment and chronicleization of the earlier days of the Frisco Waterfront, particularly of the 1930's period, is nostalgic and you could have been referring to London, New York, Melbourne, Auckland, Liverpool and umpteen other Ports the principle has been the same as San Francisco. I have appreciated the accurate dissection and descriptions and from this had confirmation that the policies and decisions I have been party to over many years and had a small part in developing and which have aimed at retaining and ensuring to the greatest extent practical for working people an equitable share of the profits from progress, faults and weakness excepted, have been correct.

Trust all is well with your family, your members and yourself.

Kind regards

Yours fraternally

E. G. Thompson.

E.G. THOMPSON

... And in this context, a mention which came from a very good union mentor and brother should surely be finally noted.

The citation which follows is from the preface (pp. xiii - xiv) Lincoln Fairley's Facing Mechanization: The West Coast Longshore Plan, Monograph Series: 23, Los Angeles, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California), 1979, 447pp. With a Ph.D. from Harvard in economics, "Linc" was teaching at Yale when the U.S. entered World War II. Having then worked for the government, he went on to serve the ILWU as its Research Director from 1946 to 1964. Upon his union retirement in 1964, he was appointed by the union and the Pacific Maritime Association to serve as their Area Arbitrator for Northern California. Just prior to what is cited here, he says that he gave Bridges a copy of his manuscript and that Bridges, after reading it, asked the then Director of Research, Barry Silverman, for an "objective appraisal". He then goes on to say that he "greatly benefited" from the "appraisal" thus produced, but Bridges offered "no direct comments or criticisms." Having then noted that Bridges retired as the President of the union at its 1977 convention, he continued with this:

" . . . I have benefited . . . from interviews with, among other ILWU members: Germain Bulke, now retired, but formerly Second Vice-President and later Area Arbitrator for Southern California; William Lawrence, deceased, formerly President of the ILWU Longshore Local 13 (Los Angeles) and a member of the 1960 Negotiating Committee; Craig Pritchett, Regional Director for Canada, and Herbert Mills, currently Secretary - Treasurer of the ILWU San Francisco Longshore Local."

He also shortly thereafter thanks a number of office staff of the International.