



Ship Clerks' Association, Local 34

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE AND WAREHOUSE UNION

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April 13, 2007

Letters to the Editor
San Francisco Chronicle
901 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

We the waterfront locals of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) of the Bay Area would like to clarify a number of issues concerning the proposal to tear down our founding headquarters at 113 Steuart Street in San Francisco. Federal, state and city laws protect significantly historic sites such as 113 Steuart Street. This nationally important historic site must be preserved for the working people of San Francisco and the United States. On the 75th Anniversary of the West Coast Maritime and San Francisco General Strike, which shook the world, developers are proposing to demolish our birthplace.

It was from this union hall that Harry Bridges and the Maritime Strike Committee organized, led, and won the battle for union rights and recognition. This hall was the center of the three month long Waterfront Maritime Strike. It was ground zero on Bloody Thursday, July 5, 1934, when police and deputies, following orders, shot scores of union members and where Howard Sperry was martyred (in front of the adjoining building). The bodies of Howard Sperry and Nick Bordoise lay in state in this hall for four days. The massive funeral procession of the ILA martyrs on Monday, July 9, 1934, started from this hall, went up Market Street and across San Francisco. As the Los Angeles Times wrote in 1934, "This is war boys and Steuart Street between Howard and Mission is one of the warmest spots American industrial conflict ever saw."

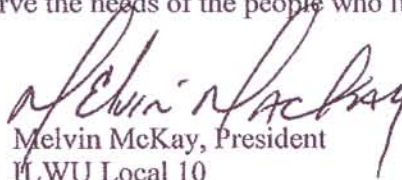
The unprecedented mobilization and General Strike, for which this building, virtually unchanged today, was the headquarters that united labor unions across the city of San Francisco and changed the consciousness of working people throughout the United States and the world.

We are at a historic moment, when working people are again under unprecedented attack. We join other labor unions and cultural historians across this country in demanding that the redevelopment of 113 Steuart Street should incorporate the ILA Hall as a designated Landmarked Labor History and Education Center.

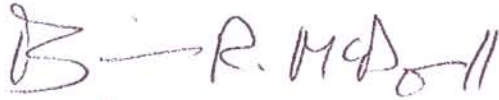
That living history is a prologue to our struggles of the future, demanding good union jobs in projects that restore our cities and serve the needs of the people who live in them.



René Ducroux, President
ILWU, Local 34
San Francisco



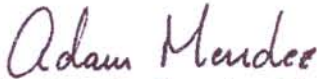
Melvin McKay, President
ILWU Local 10
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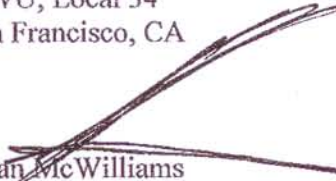
Brian McDonald, President
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