

THE ACTIVIST



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STEVEN JOYCE CAUGHT LYING OVER RENA ACCUSATIONS

The Green Party has released email correspondence showing that Steven Joyce lied on TVNZ's Close Up show last night when he said, "I have not had a single request of my office or of the Ministry for any briefing from any opposition politician whatsoever."

"The Green Party did seek a briefing on the Rena situations directly from Steven Joyce. He lied when he said we hadn't," said Green Party oceans spokesperson Gareth Hughes.

"We even received a response from Steven Joyce's office saying they had referred our briefing request to Maritime New Zealand.

"Our attempts to receive a briefing started on Friday when we unsuccessfully tried to get hold of Maritime New Zealand to request a briefing for when I was in Tauranga on Saturday.

The Green Party is concerned that Steven Joyce may also be lying about other aspects of the salvage and clean-up operation.

"Locals have raised serious concerns about the lack of communication. It would be worrying if the little information they are getting is inaccurate," said Mr Hughes.

"Now is not the time to mislead the public. There is a serious ecological matter that needs dealing with that requires honesty and transparency from the Minister."

Copies of email correspondence are here: <http://blog.greens.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/20111010joyceofficeemails.pdf>

Authorised by Gareth Hughes, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

"RENA" A PROBLEM SAYS ITF

Earlier this year the ship was investigated while it was in Melbourne and Fremantle. International Transport Workers Federation spokesman Matt Purcell says issues included the under-payment of its crew and complaints about the standard of water on board.

He says he is not surprised it is now having more problems, given the number of issues raised in Australia.

"The crew complained about the standard of fresh water aboard the vessel, there were problems with the crew's wages and conditions," he said.

"There were also some issues with excessive overtime that they were being made to work because of the age of the ship - there's a lot of maintenance to be done on the vessel - and I believe there were some problems in the engine room which I'm not privy to."

The 47,000-tonne container vessel ran aground on the Astrolabe Reef off Tauranga on New Zealand's North Island East Coast last Wednesday.

Kiwirail Industrial Council(s) Ballot Results 2011/2013 Term

The KiwiRail Industrial Councils have governing terms of reference signed by the Union and KiwiRail. They are intended to be the escalation centre for industrial issues which arise during the course of the employment relationship on a day to day basis which have not or cannot be resolved at a local or branch level or have National significance.

Union policy as determined by Annual Conference requires that any member of the Union's National Management Committee (NMC) who is eligible for nomination to a

This is for the information and guidance of RMTU members only!

position on an Industrial Council shall be deemed to have been elected to that position.

KIWIRAIL NETWORKS INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL

Scott Wilson RMTU Union Organiser

Jerry Hohepa Infrastructure Mechanical (elected unopposed)

Kevin Jones Operations Scale 1 (elected unopposed)

Phil Kearns Infrastructure Sigs, Comms, Traction (elected unopposed)

Buzz Terrey Infrastructure Bridges/Structures (elected unopposed)

Hopa Bell Infrastructure Track Supervisor (elected unopposed)

Geoff Young Operations Train Control (elected unopposed)

Track Worker Representative Ballot Result:

There were two nominations received for the Track Worker Representative position and in accordance with Rule 42, a postal Ballot using the 'First Past the Post' system was conducted between William Lanigan and Edward Dargaville.

Papers Issued	323
Total Returned	54
Return Rate	16.72%
Edward Dargaville	43 Votes (79.63%)
William Lanigan	11 votes (20.37%)

At the close of the ballot Edward Dargaville is declared elected. Congratulations Edward and our thanks to William for standing and participating in the democratic process.

KIWIRAIL PASSENGER INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL

Wayne Butson RMTU Union Organiser
Hayden Smith Loco Engineers (elected unopposed)

Brian Armstrong Train Manager (Long Distance) (elected unopposed)

Harvey Paterson Train Manager (Urban) (elected unopposed)

Glen Hughes Yard Operations (elected unopposed)

Scale 1 - Vacant

KIWIRAIL FREIGHT INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL

Todd Valster RMTU Union Organiser

Barry Simpkins (NMC) Locomotive Northern

Doug Blakie (NMC) Terminals Southern

Wally Wallbutton Locomotive Central (elected unopposed)

Dean Ngatai Terminals Northern

C T Site Representative Ballot Results:

There were four nominations received for the CT Site Representative position and in accordance with Rule 42.4, a postal Ballot was conducted between James Collins, Wayne Coombe, Joe Harding and Len Miller using the "Preferential Voting" system. At the close of the ballot Len Miller received "more than" 51% of the actual returned votes and was therefore declared elected.

Papers Issued	131
Total Returned	38
Return Rate	21.09%
51% Total Returned	19.38 Votes
James Collins	13.16% 5 votes
Wayne Coombe	10.53% 4 votes
Joe Harding	10.53% 4 votes
Len Miller	65.79% 25 votes

At the close of the ballot Len Miller is declared elected. Congratulations Len and our thanks to James, Wayne and Joe for standing and participating in the democratic process.

Locomotive Southern Ballot Results:

There were two nominations received for the Locomotive Southern position and in accordance with Rule 42, a postal Ballot using the 'First Past the Post' system was conducted between Brian McKay and Michael Williams.

Papers Issued	130
Total Returned	82
Return Rate	63.08%
Michael Williams	53.66% 44 votes
Brian McKay	46.34% 38 votes

At the close of the ballot Michael Williams is



declared elected. Congratulations Mike and our thanks to Brian for standing and participating in the democratic process.

Yard Terminals Central Ballot Results:

There were two nominations received for the Terminals Central position and in accordance with Rule 42, a postal Ballot using the 'First Past the Post' system was conducted between John Maguren and Michael Vowles.

Papers Issued	130
Total Returned	49
Return Rate	37.69%
John Maguren	67.35% 33 votes
Michael Vowles	32.65% 16 votes

At the close of the ballot John Maguren is declared elected. Congratulations John and our thanks to Michael for standing and participating in the democratic process.

INTERISLANDER INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL

George Laird RMTU Union Organiser

John Finch Ferry Operations (Outside) North (elected unopposed)

Liz Connell Scale 1 (inside) North (elected unopposed)

Tania Haraki Scale 1 (Inside) South (elected unopposed)

Ferry Operations (Outside) South Ballot Results:

There were two nominations received for the Ferry Operations (Outside) South position and in accordance with Rule 42, a postal Ballot using the 'First Past the Post' system was conducted between Brent Coburn and Newton Popplewell.

Papers Issued	24
Total Returned	19
Return Rate	79.17%
Brent Coburn	42.11% 8 votes
Newton Popplewell	57.89% 11 votes

At the close of the ballot Newton Popplewell is declared elected. Congratulations Newton and our thanks to Brent for standing and participating in this democratic process.

KIWIRAIL MECHANICAL INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL

John Kerr RMTU Union Organiser

Howard Phillips NMC Electric Suburban Wellington

Paul Riddell Auckland Metro Maintenance (elected unopposed)

Stuart Johnstone Hillside Workshops (elected unopposed)

Hutt Workshops Ballot Result

There were two nominations received for the Hutt Workshops position and in accordance with Rule 42, a postal Ballot using the 'First Past the Post' system was conducted between Kasia Kurene and Terry Duffy.

Papers Issued	161
Total Returned	73
Return Rate	45.34%
Kasia Kurene	54.79% 40 votes
Terry Duffy	45.21% 33 votes

At the close of the ballot Kasia Kurene is declared elected. Congratulations Kasia and our thanks to Terry for standing and participating in this democratic process.

South Island Depots Ballot Result

There were two nominations received for the South Island Depots position and in accordance with Rule 42, a postal Ballot using the 'First Past the Post' system was conducted between Laurence Hall and Jim Kelly.

Papers Issued	79
Total Returned	44
Return Rate	55.70%
Laurence Hall	84.09% 37 votes
Jim Kelly	15.91% 7 votes

At the close of the ballot Laurence Hall is declared elected. Congratulations Lawrence and our thanks to Jim for standing and participating in this democratic process.

North Island Depots Ballot Result

There were three nominations received for the 2 North Island Depots positions and in accordance with Rule 42, a postal Ballot using the 'First Past the Post' system was conducted between Rudy Brens, Steve Brown and Shane McNae.



Papers Issued	179
Total Returned	59
Return Rate	32.96%
Steve Brown	52.54% 31 votes
Rudy Brens	23.73% 14 votes
Shane McNae	23.73% 14 votes

At the close of the ballot Steve Brown was declared elected, having the highest returned vote total. As both Rudy and Shane received the same number of votes, another ballot will be issued to decide who will be elected to the second North Island Depots position.

Congratulations Steve and good luck to Rudy and Shane for standing and participating in the upcoming ballot process.

THERE ARE BETTER OPTIONS THAN TRIPLING THE EQC LEVY

"The rise in the EQC levy from 5c to 15c per \$100 of insurance cover is effectively a tax to raise funds for the government", says CTU Economist Bill Rosenberg. "The EQC has insufficient funds to cover the Canterbury earthquakes so the government will have to find an estimated \$1.2 billion from borrowing and the increased levy reduces that to \$490 million. There is in reality no difference between this expenditure and all the other expenses required by the earthquakes. A much fairer way to raise funds to pay for the earthquake would be a special earthquake tax targeted at those who could most afford it."

"There is no doubt EQC levies will have to rise, but even this tripled levy will still take no less than 30 years to rebuild the EQC's Natural Disaster Fund. Substantial rethinking needs to be done on many aspects of the EQC in the light of the earthquakes, but this is a revenue raising exercise with no obvious logic to its size or form", says Rosenberg.

The government's financial position for the year ended June 2011, released today, shows net government debt \$1.4 billion better than expected in this year's Budget, equivalent to 20.0 percent of GDP. The Operating Balance was thrown out by the

\$9.1 billion provided for the earthquakes and would otherwise have been similar to the previous year according to Treasury.

"However this has been at the expense of already very tight Health and Education budgets which have been under spent by \$300 million each. We estimated in 2010 that the Health Budget was already underfunded with any additions to programmes being funded by cuts in others. Both have also had unbudgeted costs from the earthquakes. Things have turned out even tougher than expected for these services."

Rosenberg also pointed out that the cost of the tax changes that took effect in October 2010 was even higher than budgeted. In the 2010 Budget, tax cuts were forecast to cost approximately \$2.5 billion during the year. In fact they cost \$2.7 billion. The 20 percent increase in the GST rate was forecast to raise \$2.0 billion to offset the cost of the cuts. In fact it raised only \$1.6 billion. "Together, the effect of the tax changes to worsen the deficit in the operating balance will have been closer to \$1 billion in lost revenue rather than the \$460 million forecast," he concluded.

QANTAS FRIGHTENS EMPLOYEES

The Transport Workers' Union (TWU) says its Qantas employee members received door knocks between 10 pm and 4 am recently from Qantas management delivering threatening letters.

The night before the industrial action by members of the Transport Workers' Union of Australia saw Qantas workers alarmed and distressed by representatives of the company delivering threatening letters to employees in the middle of the night.

"Welcome to the New Spirit of Australia," the national secretary of the TWU Tony Sheldon said.

"These employees were delivered official letters from Qantas under cover of darkness from 10pm to 4am. Most had families woken by loud knocks on the door by Qantas messenger's hell bent on delivering Qantas letters.



"A number of the letters' recipients thought it was the police or someone else delivering bad news. It makes you wonder how Qantas thought this was sound management practice.

"The fact that Qantas would rather go out in the dead of night delivering letters to shocked and worried staff speaks volumes about why unions are unable to reach any reasonable settlement. The question for Alan Joyce and Qantas chairman Leigh Clifford is: 'who endorsed this disgraceful strategy?'" Tony said.

Qantas workers were also locked out today and prevented from resuming work after deciding to shorten the industrial stoppage.

Qantas management rejected efforts by their own workers to resume work early in the interests of the travelling public.

"Qantas is now in a sorry state. They put management pay up by 50% to 71%, sacked a thousand workers, junked their international business, then when night falls they knock on the door of employees, some of whom earn as little as \$37,000 per year base".

"If this is the new spirit, then it is a sad day for Australia and the iconic brand of Qantas " said Sheldon.

TOLL ON THE HUNT

Toll Group is on the hunt for mid-sized, private companies to help grow its US business says Paul Little. In an interview with Dow Jones Newswires he said that he had met with several US companies and had found potentially attractive takeover targets, namely mid-sized, private companies to help grow its US business. In the last 25 years, Toll has made 100 or more acquisitions, with 15 in 2010 and six so far this year. The mergers, of varying sizes, have turned a small company, founded in 1888 and with 1986 revenue of just A\$16.0 million, into a global logistics company with operations in 55 countries and annual sales approaching A\$8.5 billion.

LYTTELTON PORT COMPANY CITY DEPOT DISPUTE GOES TO

EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS AUTHORITY

Lyttelton Port runs an operation on the Christchurch side of the Lyttelton Tunnel that is an extension of the Port.

The RMTU has recently recruited all of the Forklift Operators on this job. They're paid up to \$7 an hour lower than workers on the other side of the hill despite, in our view, falling under coverage of the LPC Combined Unions Agreement.

The Company is refusing to accept these members are part of the Combined Unions Agreement.

On one level it's a narrow legal argument. On another, human, level it's about eight families getting a decent wage.

We're off to the Employment Relations Authority to get a determination. If the Authority agrees with us these members will get a well -deserved boost in their pay.

No-one wants to have to fight in court over matters like this. If we do, it's good to know that one of the benefits of union membership is having the support and representation that enables us to do so.

FAMILIES HAVE TO SPEND MORE ON ESSENTIALS

The results of the review of the Consumer Price Index announced today by Statistics New Zealand shows that households are spending more on the unavoidable essentials – food, rent, electricity – while other important expenditure like transport and clothing has fallen as a proportion of the household budget.

The review re-estimates what is in the average "basket" of goods and services that a household buys, and what proportion is spent on each of them.

"Food, rent and electricity are all items that have even higher expenditure weights in low income households, while new cars and restaurant dining are weighted more heavily in higher income households," says CTU Economist, Bill Rosenberg.



"The review adds weight to the evidence that low income households have been hit hardest over the last three years."

"In addition, interest paid by households, which is not part of the standard CPI, has fallen, but interest is a much larger part of high income households' spending. Rents, on the other hand, have risen over the period and are more significant for low income households, are now a larger part of household expenditure."

Average weekly income reported by the New Zealand Income Survey increase 3.5 percent from June 2007 to June 2010 while CPI prices increased 8.5 percent according to Statistics New Zealand. Households increased the quantity of the goods and services they purchased by just 0.6 percent over that whole period.

MEAT WORKERS UNION WELCOMES DETERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS AUTHORITY

The New Zealand Meat Workers Union has welcomed the decision yesterday by the Employment Relations Authority, determining issues between the Union and AFFCO New Zealand Limited.

The Authority has found that AFFCO breached its obligations in good faith, by offering employees who are not members of the Union, or who were willing to leave the Union, significantly different terms of employment, than under the Collective Agreement. According to the Employment Relations Authority, there was a "huge disparity" in the terms.

The Authority has made Compliance Orders requiring AFFCO to act in good faith, and to cease misleading practices when employing workers. It is also ordered that AFFCO is to stop requiring members of the Union to apply for their jobs at the beginning of each season, as the workers are entitled to this work.

Graham Cooke, the Secretary of the Aotearoa Branch of the Union said:

"AFFCO has attacked the Union by offering better conditions to new workers on individual employment agreements, and

has tried to encourage Union members to leave the Union for better pay and conditions.

The Authority has agreed with us that these actions were unlawful. Sadly AFFCO seems determined not to work with the Union and has tried to do everything it can to break the Union. This decision will make that far more difficult".

The determination follows others of the Employment Relations Authority, in which AFFCO has acted unlawfully in relation to the Union. It has been required by injunction to recognise a Union Official it refused to work with [2011] NZERA Wellington 23. In addition, AFFCO was recently found to have discriminated against a Union Official by not allowing him to work in his butcher position he had held for over twenty years, and requiring him to work as a labourer, with substantial pay losses [2011] NZERA Wellington 70.

Mr Cooke said:

"The ERA is helping us deal with an anti-Union employer in any way it can. What is needed however, is an attitude change. It makes no sense for the Company and the Union to be fighting in the Employment Relations Authority and Employment Court, and wasting the resources of both AFFCO and the Union. Our energy should be put into fixing problems. Sadly, the Company is unwilling to work in this way".

The Union will now be seeking compensation for workers who were not engaged when they should have been. At the commencement of the 2011 season, Mr Cooke stated:

"The Union will take any step it can to ensure that our members have not been disadvantaged, and will seek compensation for them".

GOVERNMENT LEARNS NOTHING ABOUT HEALTH AND SAFETY

The announcement that the Government is investigating deregulating the use of farm vehicles allowing longer work hours and less stringent restrictions on use and standards of vehicles is an indication that they have learned nothing about health and safety.



Helen Kelly, President of the CTU said "being hit by a moving object is the top cause of fatal and serious injuries in New Zealand workplaces with farm vehicles accounting for 23% of those deaths and injuries. Despite agriculture, forestry and fishing only have around 7% of the New Zealand workforce they accounted for 15% of the fatalities to workers in 2008 with the key cause of death including farm vehicles. Those killed and injured include a significant number of contractors or workers employed by contractors."

"Yesterday the Government put out a statement announcing the review which highlights specifically its priorities – and they are not worker safety. Noting that contractors and farmers need to harvest crops when they are ready, and when the weather is right the solution they propose is that that may mean workers working longer and more irregular hours."

"Government is suggesting changes to regulations on working hours, requirements for safety inspections of vehicles and relaxing requirements for load weights amongst other things. Even proposing this is sending a message that farm work safety is not a priority. It is also against Governments own statistic which suggests up to 25% of road accidents may be attributable to fatigue – this must also apply to accidents with vehicles on farms."

"The suggestion that vehicles might not need safety restrictions because these vehicles may not spend much time on public roads ignores the fact that these workers are being killed on farms and many of them will be on vehicles being pushed to the limit and used in unsafe ways."

"The Government says it has listened closely to industry concerns but it has not talked to the workers and it has not considered their interests or the terrible failure of this industry to run its business safely –farm employers should first be asked to prove that they are capable of safe practice and reducing farm accidents and until that time standards and compliance should be increased not reduced."

Yesterday's announcement does not include any consideration of talking to farm workers about any proposed changes.

GREENS' POLICIES GOOD MIX FOR JOBS, LIVING STANDARDS AND ENVIRONMENT

Green Party economic policies are a welcome mixture of measures to combat growing income inequality and to develop the economy in sustainable ways, says Bill Rosenberg, CTU economist.

"Importantly, the policy recognises the high levels of income inequality in New Zealand and therefore supports strengthening collective bargaining, raising the minimum wage immediately to \$15, removing 90-day trials, and implementing international standards for employment. It also proposes progressive energy pricing which would lower costs of energy to low income earners," Rosenberg says.

Green Party policies to keep the SOEs in public ownership while using them to develop the economy, and strengthening government procurement to help local industry are positive policies that the CTU can support, Rosenberg said.

"However use of the SOEs in this way will need carefully designed safeguards to ensure they don't put public investment at risk and their management does not take its eye off the main objectives such as stable, low cost, environmentally sustainable electricity supplies."

The CTU also welcomed the willingness of the Greens to look at new monetary and exchange rate policies and their support for a capital gains tax, exempting the family home. "Boosting Kiwibank is another sensible step to improve the quality of competition in the banking sector. We would support them going further to reduce New Zealand's vulnerability to international financial markets and to increase the quality of overseas investment here."

"Building energy-efficient state and community houses, jobs to improve our environment and rescue polluted rivers, and encouraging forestry are all positive ways to create worthwhile jobs creating assets the community needs while working to make



New Zealand's economy and environment more sustainable. They are particularly timely when there is still high unemployment with a fragile economic outlook."

"The policies to encourage more research and development and to increase industry training are much needed to boost New Zealand's productivity. This is an area in which much more could be done. Industry training also needs clearer pathways through school to encourage school leavers into these vocations."

The CTU supported moves to make the Emissions Trading Scheme more effective, but said that changes do need to consider the threat of "environmental dumping" - competition from imports which are cheaper because they don't have carbon costs built in. It is also timely to review mineral royalties given their very low levels. "New Zealanders deserve a much bigger slice of the profits from mining their minerals."

GREENS LAUNCH PLAN TO CREATE 100,000 NEW JOBS

The Green Party today launched their plan to create 100,000 new green jobs through business incentives and government leadership.

"Our plan will create 100,000 clean green jobs at the heart of a new economy for New Zealand," said Green Party Co-leader Dr Russel Norman.

"We will create 100,000 new jobs through direct government investment in housing, by ensuring our state-owned energy companies capture the massive export opportunities in renewable energy, and, most importantly, by shifting the drivers for green jobs in the private sector.

"As well as stimulating jobs at a time of economic uncertainty, our initiative will make our economy more resilient and protect our natural environment, without going further into debt.

"Our costed plans will mean we're able to pay down debt more quickly than the current Government is planning to."

The Green Party's economic priorities include plans for direct government investment, building sustainable infrastructure, supporting the greening of our small and medium-sized enterprises, driving clean technology innovation, introducing smarter regulation, getting the prices of resources and pollution right, protecting our '100% Pure' brand, reforming capital markets, making our workplaces fairer, and measuring progress differently.

"The current National Government's economic approach has been to risk our clean green brand for the sake of a quick buck," said Dr Norman.

"The majority of our lowland rivers are now polluted due to the unregulated expansion of the dairy industry. The three lignite plants under consideration will escalate our contribution to climate change. Spending \$20 billion on highways over the next ten years is unbelievable when our train services are an embarrassment internationally and in great need of further investment.

"Our economic plan will not only create good jobs, it will speed the transition of our economy to a low-carbon, clean technology future."

The Green Jobs Initiative complements plans already announced to address child poverty in New Zealand and clean up our rivers and lakes.

"Jobs, rivers, and kids; it's a pretty compelling vision for a richer New Zealand," Dr Norman said.

Link to further details and a live streaming video of the launch of the event at 11AM: www.greens.org.nz/greenjobs

The plan in detail:

<http://www.greens.org.nz/GreenJobsInitiativeBooklet.pdf>

The plan in brief:

<http://www.greens.org.nz/GreenJobsInitiativeOne-pager.pdf>

SLOW GROWTH IN GDP NOT GOOD FOR JOBS OUTLOOK

The increase of only 0.1 percent in GDP in the June quarter, well below most forecasts, is not good news for reducing unemployment

and raising wages, says CTU Economist, Bill Rosenberg.

"While it follows a 0.9 percent increase in the March quarter, and the Rugby World Cup may give a temporary boost to the September quarter, the result backs our continuing concerns that we are faced with a slow recovery which will not reduce unemployment fast enough."

"The low growth in GDP is also inconsistent with confidence surveys, which over the recession have frequently showed employer intentions not being followed through into creating jobs."

"With dark clouds gathering in the US and Europe including warnings of return to recession, and revised data on New Zealand's net international liabilities showing our situation not as bad as previously assumed. The government should increase spending on programmes that create jobs and provide more support for people out of work. It should not continue its current focus on cutting public sector spending."

There is an increasing risk of a slow down in exports and that the Christchurch reconstruction will not happen as quickly as had been assumed.

"Construction is still in deep trouble, falling 4.3 percent in the June quarter, and if it goes too low may have problems pulling together the resources for the Christchurch effort. Manufacturing has also fallen (0.1 percent), showing the fragility of its growth over the previous two quarters, and not boding well for New Zealand's higher value exports."

Per capita GDP and Real gross national disposable income, a better measure of welfare, also both fell in the quarter.

"The result shows the fragility of the economic recovery," says Rosenberg.

THIRD EAST ASIA WEEK OF ACTION BEGINS

ITF inspectors and members of seafarer and docker unions began a week of action (26 to 30 September) at major ports in Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Russia. Staggered weeks of action are being held in

Indian and Sri Lanka in September, November and December, with inspections taking place this week in Cochin, Chennai, Colombo and Tuticorin.

The action – the third this year – is linked to the ITF's flags of convenience and ports of convenience campaigns, and will focus on the condition and provision of lifesaving and cargo-related equipment, as well as on crew terms and conditions.

In Japan, checks will be made at the port of Mishima-Kawanoe following reports of injuries, particularly among casual workers working long shifts there. Trade unionists will rally outside the premises of shipowner Kotoku Kaiun, which has refused to sign ITF agreements, as well as in front of the head office of Dowa Line in Tokyo.

In Korea, activities will take place at the ports of Pusan, Incheon and Ulsan, followed by rallies at Pohang, Pusan and Incheon in support of the ILWU union's struggle to represent workers at the Port of Longview, which is part owned by Korean company STX.

In the Russian Far East the following ports will be targeted: Vladivostok, Nakhodka and Vostochniy.

BITS AND BOBS



Mechanical progression and wages relativity with Networks is an issue on the boil presently. The RMTU and KR met late last week in a shortened lineout to discuss the alignment of mechanical engineer rates of pay. Howard Phillips (the RMTU rep) reports that good progress was made.

Please take care of each other and above all else - Let's Be Safe Out There!

