

Special  
Issue

# SEAFARERS LOG

May  
1971

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION • ATLANTIC, GULF, LAKES AND INLAND WATERS DISTRICT • AFL-CIO



## Seafarers Educational Conference

Where We've Been  
Where We Are  
Where We're Going

## A SPECIAL REPORT





## Report of the President

### Brother Seafarers:

This special issue of the *Log* is a report to you on an event that will become a milestone in the history of the SIU.

I refer to the first Seafarers Educational Conference held at Piney Point in the first two weeks of March. That meeting, at which, in the best sense of union democracy, 250 men met and discussed their union today and their hopes and plans for the union tomorrow, will aid us all in the days ahead.

The decisions made by the elected delegates will give all of us—rank-and-file members and union officials, alike—goals to be achieved, purposes to work for and the direction in which to sail in the coming years.

For it is the members speaking in the position papers we proudly print here. I say proudly because the men who came as delegates looked into every facet of the union and came away with a better understanding than they had before. That was the purpose of the conference and that is why it was such a great success.

Because they understood the SIU better, they asked better questions, took better positions and made a lasting contribution to the continued strength of this union.

The resolutions, then, are the voice of the people, the people of this union. As officers we are charged with the high duty of seeing that that voice is heard and that it brings results for all the members. I intend to see that the will of the people, expressed through the voice of their delegates, is carried out.

It is highly apparent that the educational conference will stand as the jumping-off place for what we expect to be a decade of growth and progress, as well as one of struggle and sacrifice.

It is healthy for us to have this kind of participation, the kind that leads to solid accomplishment and our thanks go to the men who participated so intently and earnestly in the conference.

On a personal level, it was good to see so many Seafarers gathering to get a job done—a job they performed with what has always been the Seafarers' will to improve their union. Old friendships were renewed, new ones begun. All adding weight to our motto of the "Brotherhood of the Sea."

We all can be proud of the men who came to Piney Point in March. Proud because their accomplishments matched our hopes. Proud because they refused to accept the standard answers and sought, and got, the deeper more meaningful information. Proud because they acted so responsibly in the interests of their Brother Seafarers.

In the pages that follow, you will see the shaping of the future of the SIU, done by the men who know it best, those who have the greatest stake in its continued success—the membership at large.

These are their words, their thoughts, their aspirations. And these should be an inspiration to us all.

Fraternally,

*Paul Hall*  
Paul Hall





# Seafarers Educational Conference: *A Special Report*

## Piney Point, Md.

This is a special report to the members of the Seafarers International Union, a report based on the first Seafarers Educational Conference.

It is a report prepared by the 250 rank-and-file Seafarers who attended the two-week conference here as elected delegates from 14 major ports.

The recommendations and the conclusions of these delegates, contained in unanimously-adopted position papers, cover all of the major subjects discussed during the conference.

Those recommendations and conclusions will help to shape the policies of the SIU for many years to come. They will help to set our goals. They will help to establish the means for reaching those goals.

One immediate result of these recommendations is the establishment of a series of educational conferences, as called for by the delegates "to give other SIU members the opportunity to take part in, and develop points of view on, those matters which have so great an effect on their lives."

Such conferences already are underway and in the planning.

Recommendations such as this one were the result of the free exchange of ideas between delegates and union officials, an exchange of ideas which led to a new understanding of our common problems.

To help achieve this understanding, delegates took up for study nine major topics, as follows:

- The history of the labor movement in general and the SIU in particular.
- The union and the law, the legal issues which today confront the SIU and many other labor organizations.
- The SIU contract—the document which

spells out the wages and working conditions of every Seafarer.

- Political education and political action, the fight to improve the sailor's life through better laws.

- Pension, Welfare and Vacation Programs—plans described during the conference as "a reality shaped from an old dream."

- Education in all its phases: Trade union, vocational and academic.

- The SIU Constitution, the rule Seafarers live by both aboard ship and ashore.

- The Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship, our stake in the future.

- Shipboard meetings and behavior.

This special report contains the position papers formulated by the delegates on these topics. It also contains a conclusion, a special report summing up the work of the conference and the general ideas of the delegates.

In addition, it contains the reports of the various delegates who served as workshop chairmen each day, reports which were delivered to a general assembly of all delegates each afternoon of the conference.

The position papers and reports of the workshop chairmen are followed by comments from individual delegates, essays which reveal their feelings about the union, its programs and the value of the conference itself.

This, then, is truly a publication for and by Seafarers. It was written by the 250 delegates to the Seafarers Educational Conference. It has been edited only for purposes of size and editorial style.

It contains criticism as well as praise. But along with the criticism and praise, it contains the ideas, the ideals, the hopes and the dreams of the members of this union.

It is a very special document.







# SIU History: Lessons from the Past

The history of the SIU is the story of our kind of people—Seafarers.

From the time man first went to sea in ships, the seaman has had a life far different than that of men who made their living in jobs ashore.

The situation is no different today. Seafarers still have special problems, special wants, special needs that stem from their unique occupation.

The history of the Seafarers International Union is the story of struggle, challenge and achievement. It is the story of what Seafarers have done and are doing to make a better life for ourselves and our families.

Our conference activities on the history of the SIU were devoted to the study, review and discussion of the men of the sea. We gave special emphasis to the story of our union, from its founding in the uncertain and bitter days of 1938 to the complex issues that confront Seafarers and the maritime industry today.

We were able to trace our history effectively through the new film, "Tomorrow Is Also A Day," and a wide range of other informative documents telling of the role of the Seafarer and his union in winning the better life.

We reviewed the early vicious struggle for survival against the combined strength of anti-union management, pro-management government and the constant efforts of the Communist Party to seize control of the lives and destinies of American seamen.

We saw and, for many of us, relived the days when the Seafarer was called upon to defend our nation's liberty during World War II, during the Korean War and in the Vietnam conflict.

With the end of World War II came the expansion of the SIU through the use of its militancy and determination to bring to the unorganized seamen aboard American-flag vessels the benefits of unionism.

Through this SIU organizing activity we became stronger. And with that strength we pioneered new worlds in collective bargaining for Seafarers. We established a Pension Plan, our Health and Welfare Program, our Vacation Plan—benefits that before this time had been but a dream to the men of the sea.

As the union achieved economic success and job security for Seafarers, it formed programs to bring job opportunity and a better future through battles that had to be fought in areas far removed from the bargaining table.

As an integral part of this program, the SIU developed strategies and policies to combat those who would destroy the American-flag merchant marine—the "runaway" ship operators; the governmental agencies who would have dumped the American-flag fleet in favor of foreign-flag shipping—a whole range of enemies who would have destroyed our fleet, and with it eliminated our jobs.

These targets brought to our SIU the challenge of entering effectively the legislative and political arenas—areas that have enormous influence on our industry, and thus on our jobs and our security as Seafarers.

As the history of the SIU so vividly shows, we have demonstrated an awareness of the problems that are critical to our own well-being. We of the SIU have emerged as one of the strongest and most effective forces promoting the development of a viable merchant marine industry in the United States.

Our current history proves that the SIU knows that only through revitalization of the American-flag fleet will Seafarers have any job security—let alone the opportunity to better our lives.

Because of the collective foresight, energies and determination of our union, we in the SIU family enjoy a degree of security and benefits unmatched by those in any other segment of the American-flag merchant marine—and this in spite of the continuing decline in American-flag shipping.

The long years of sacrifice and hard work were climaxed last year with the passage of the Merchant Marine Act of 1970 which provides new hope for American shipping and the men who man our ships—Seafarers.

But as our history clearly shows, new problems carrying new challenges will face us. We are confident that we are equipping ourselves to meet them. We are confident because we have built a union that is alert to these problems, to these challenges.

This alertness has brought the establishment of an educational center that is as unique as the Seafarer himself. The Harry Lundberg School of Seamanship at Piney Point, Md., is the heart of a program of academic and vocational training, as well as the center for conferences and programs for SIU members geared to keeping Seafarers constantly aware and informed of their union and their industry. From this facility will flow to old timers and young men alike the information and knowledge required to keep the SIU strong—that will give it the flexibility to face and meet the challenges of the future.

Again we say, the history of our SIU is the story of our people.

While many of us are personally familiar with this history, it is mandatory that every Seafarer—to be effective in working toward the best interest of himself, his family and his union—know intimately the story of his union, its trials and its successes.

We therefore recommend that our union utilize all available resources of communication—films, pamphlets and other materials which provide historical information—in every possible way to make the history of the SIU available to our members, ashore and aboard ships, and to their families in their homes.

We know that all Seafarers will take pride in the story of the SIU—a continuing story of our collective achievements.

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Delegates at work, taking part in a research project.



# Workshop Chairman Report on SIU History



Coats

**I. K. Coats**

**Workshop #1**

At this morning's session, group one covered 32 years of SIU history in capsule form—many of you here are part of that history.

I'm sure we all recognize the struggles and appreciate the victories—not always getting 100 percent, but striving toward that end—never forgetting those who were casualties along the way in those struggles.

One idea brought forth this morning, to better inform the entire membership, and to generate interest in SIU history: To compile a package of short, informational pamphlets in series sequence covering in detail, with photos and documentation, the relevant struggles and results encountered by the SIU. This could be a Historical Pamphlet Series dedicated to producing an alert, intelligent membership.

**Don Bartlett**

**Workshop #5**

I am glad to have this opportunity to meet and talk with by brother seamen and many old friends. In the material dealing with labor history of the SIU, I recalled many incidents and conditions that I experienced over the past 30 years. As an SIU member, I know that I have been a part of that history; a history that has recorded an ever-improving lot in life for the seamen.

To mention a few: health benefits, vacation pay, pension plans; better wages, job rights and shipboard conditions. Last but not least, I have been privileged to witness history in the construction and putting into operation this Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship.

I feel this institution fathered by the SIU will leave a profound and lasting mark on the pages of labor history.



Bartlett

**Vincent Pizzitolo**

**Workshop #2**

I represent the delegation from New Orleans, Workshop #2. This morning, we had a discussion about something I never even knew existed in this union: The history of the SIU, which started in 1938 until its present time right now.

I want to say that if anybody that really appreciates the union it should be me. I came out of the service in 1951 after serving 12 years, without a job. I had no place to look forward to or nothing, I was just like a bum you might say. I came to Mr. Lindsey Williams and Buck Stevens. I asked them for help. Without even batting an eye, I got all the help I needed; they put me on a ship and I have been going ever since. This has been a good life for me.



Pizzitolo

**Albert Saxon**

**Workshop #6**

Now this Piney Point is not just a happening, it was well-planned. And that planning is going to keep us going for years to come. 'Cause if you remember back a few years, the government and the shipowners wanted to start a school of their own. In other words, they're going to start another fink hall. Instead of shipping union men out, they're going to ship finks out. But this here put a stop to them, and that was all planned and it's backed by the membership. And that's why I say we cannot stress too much on leadership and unity, because as long as we got that, by God, none of them can beat us. And we'll last till hell freezes over.



Saxon

**Harold Ducloux**

**Workshop #3**

The great years in my estimation and of significance to the maritime movement as a whole and the SIU in particular were in 1854, the birth of Andrew Furuseth; 1885, the SUP had its origin; 1901, the birth of Harry Lundeberg—very great man, 1914, the first World War and all shipping was done through hiring halls. In 1915 the first legislation passed for seamen—that sort of gave us all freedom—you've heard these black people around here talk about freedom, well I will tell you right now that the seaman wasn't free either and that they got their freedom first in 1915. In 1921 we had the wage cuts and refusal to recognize union halls—this was done as a coalition between the shipping board and the shipowners. In 1934 we had a general strike.

In 1938 the SIU was born when Harry Lundeberg, the late Harry Lundeberg, obtained a charter from the AFL.



Ducloux

**Robert Byrd**

**Workshop #7**

I would like to say that we in class 7 have discussed the many problems the labor movement has had since the first trade union came into existence in 1794. We begin to realize and to know of the many issues that involve the labor movement. We just begin to realize the struggle to have what we enjoy today. The bloody strikes that we in the SIU have had since our charter was issued in 1938, the men that have died, that are crippled, that are in hospitals, in prison. The ups and downs of the labor movement, the varied setbacks and struggles that the SIU has had is no different today than what history has shown us it was in the past.



Byrd

**W. Simmons**

**Workshop #8**

I am interested in the history of the union, being a member of a number of years. I went through a lot of these strikes and most of the beefs off and on. And enjoyed all of it, and I knew what the hell I was fighting for: a job, a chance to live, a chance to be called a man not a bum.

I have done a little cursing myself at the officials, till I found out I was wrong or proven wrong. I would like to just a little bit look back on some of the conditions we've got and what I'm extremely proud of in the last few years is the scholarship program. I was a little bit reluctant to get too interested in it because I thought it was just for somebody being picked.

But my son was picked last year. So you fellows can see I am a pretty happy man.



Simmons

**Eric Joseph**

**Workshop #4**

You know a great many of our guys take history for granted and some seem to think that the wages and overtime, and the pension, welfare, and the vacation benefits, working conditions, etc., were given to us on a silver platter. Well this was certainly not the case.

These successes came about only as a result of long, hard struggles on the part of our union, and they were not won easily, or lightly. These are difficult changing times that we in maritime are living in and we must be able to cope with these changes in order to protect the vital interests of our members and their families.



Joseph





## The Union—And the Law

As the Seafarers International Union has become more and more a dynamic factor in our industry and in our society, we have found ourselves endlessly confronted with the legal aspects surrounding our activities.

Government agencies increasingly impose more and more legalistic red tape at the local, state and federal levels. Regulations governing union pension plans, health and welfare programs and related union operations all require a greater involvement of a legal character.

This is evident in areas where the federal government has restricted union activities—through regulations invoked in the repressive Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin Laws, for example.

And now we see yet another area of government activity that challenges us on the legal front. This involves the open attack by government agencies and individuals on the SIU for actions taken in pursuit of our membership's well-being in the implementation of member-approved policies.

One form of this attack upon the SIU has come through the indictment of the union and some of its officials and employees rising from the effective operation of the union's political action arm, the Seafarers Political Activities Donations fund.

In this case, the indictments came in spite of the

fact that the union complied in detail with every law concerning the reporting of contributions to and expenditures from SPAD. We have kept ourselves in compliance with every government regulation, reporting openly and publicly every dollar received and every contribution made for political activity.

It is obvious that for the SIU to continue to function, we must defend our right to participate fully in the political processes of our democracy. We cannot, we will not surrender this inalienable right, no matter how awesomely powerful the agency that seeks to deny us this right may be.

The SIU membership is solidly on record in its determination to fight these indictments with all of the resources and strength it can command.

In addition, the AFL-CIO has recorded its concern over the indictments, condemning them as harassment tactics and an attack on the entire trade union movement.

It is apparent that Seafarers are fully aware of the issues involved in this attempt to deny us participation in our nation's political process. The union has continued to keep the membership informed of all developments in this situation. We recommend to our fellow Seafarers everywhere to continue to discuss the full implications of this unwarranted attempt to stop our political activities so that everyone under-

stands just how vitally the issue affects our union, and thus, each of us.

This conference reaffirms the position previously taken by the membership in monthly meetings and at shipboard meetings to fight the indictment of our union with every available weapon.

In fact, we call upon the union to increase our political activities through SPAD, because this is our right as free citizens in a democratic society; and because it is essential to Seafarers to use political activity to promote our industry in order to obtain the maximum possible security for the future.

Competent legal protection and other assistance must be provided to members who are faced with legal situations or charges threatening their personal liberties. This was the meaning behind the establishment in 1967 of the Maritime Defense League.

This Conference reminds every SIU member of the continuing importance of the Maritime Defense League. We urge that it be given the full support of all Seafarers.

We further call for a continuation of our union's policy of fighting against all anti-union legislation and of fighting for laws that will assure Seafarers and their fellow workers in America the full right to exercise their fundamental freedoms as citizens of a democracy.

The photos across the top of this page show delegates hard at work in their workshop sessions taking up the complicated subject of the legal issues facing the SIU today. There was time, however, for some relaxation. Photo at right shows delegates aboard one of the pleasure craft located at the Harry Lundeborg School of Seamanship.





# Workshop Chairman Report on Legal Issues



Houston

**Harry Houston**

*Workshop #1*

Gentlemen, workshop #1 had a very fine discussion this morning on our legal aspects and, brothers, we're well informed now. We know where our money goes. What I'd like to bring out here is before, SPAD, COPE and the Maritime Defense Fund were just words to us. Today we see it. And since the 1970 Maritime Act, we really know where our dollars are going.

Now that we have a few real friendly and appreciative senators and representatives who need our political help, the bucks will be easier to part with. The Maritime Act of 1970 is worth the dough only if we continue punching dollars into the fund to see that it is carried out and maintained and not lost after we've almost won the battle.

**Gilbert Delgado**

*Workshop #2*

This morning, we studied about the legal aspects and some of the best readings I have ever heard from men, seamen, my age, even some older. We took these pages and read them, and that way everyone understood them. When we came to what is termed as the "Trojan Horse"—I studied about the "Trojan Horse" in 1931. I had completely forgotten what it exactly was.

Then we went into the Maritime Defense League, which is a great thing. I think we should all back it up 100 percent. Money is nothing, fellows, if we don't use it in the right place. A twenty dollar bill, we'll throw it on a card, throw it on a bar, maybe give it to someone we shouldn't. I think we should give it to the Defense League.



Delgado

**Bernie Kazmierski**

*Workshop #3*

The present indictment against our union and our officials because of the SPAD donations which we, the members, donated for political activities. Our union officials and union was indicted because of this.

Now, our union officials are going to be faced with a court trial that is going to cost us plenty of money. This is one of the many reasons for our defense fund. If we did not have the defense fund, our union officials could not stand the cost of this trial. They would be put in hock. Their homes would probably have to be sold to raise money to defend themselves to keep from going to jail for something, if they are guilty, which I don't believe they are. So, in summary of this, it seems that in this society there are two sets of rules: (1) for labor; (2) for management. I firmly believe that if these indictments should be held up in court that it means the end of unions, of our participation in the political arena.



Kazmierski

**William Koflowitch**

*Workshop #4*

In our workshop this morning we studied and discussed various legal issues. You know, I have been accused of being a sea lawyer and in all honesty I will have to plead guilty to that charge. I mean guilty, with an explanation. That explanation is this: anything that involves me personally is certainly important enough to take my interest and learn as much as I possibly can. And I must confess I never did realize how little I really do know about the law and how it can affect me personally. But I can tell you one thing, I intend to find out as much as I can from this point on.

I want to urge each and every delegate at this conference to do the same thing. And, furthermore, it is up to us to take these messages back to our home ports and aboard our next ship and to tell our brothers and sisters and shipmates what the true story is.



Koflowitch

**Tony Arcenaux**

*Workshop #5*

The government is trying to knock us out and is trying to bring down the Seafarers' International, and I think every member of this union should fight against all these indignities that have come upon our officials. I will fight it 100 percent as a member of this union.

You know, in the beginning of '36, the Wagner Act gave labor organizations a lawful right and the protection of the National Relations Board. But, sometimes, in my own opinion, I wonder if that act was ever carried out through our government. And I wish to say this, at my ending, that I am thankful and I pray to the Almighty God that everything will work out perfect for our officials and give us a better understanding and a much tighter SIU.



Arcenaux

**Paul L. Hunt**

*Workshop #6*

I'd like to express my gratitude at being able to come down here with the rest of you, and I hope I'll be able to come to any future conferences. And I would also like to mention the good jobs that the instructors are doing for us here in answering our questions and keeping our attention to what they are trying to teach us.

After this morning's class, I feel that I've learned a heck of a lot more about our legal assistance and the problems our union is having right now with Washington and other organizations that are against us, and I hope that our donations and whatever money we can help with will help to get this all straightened out.

We studied legal assistance for our union and the importance of this assistance. I'd like to say that I am very glad I went to this particular class this morning, because I found out some things I didn't know.



Hunt

**Stan Cieslak**

*Workshop #7*

I hadn't realized the processes he sets in motion when a member merely goes to the hall to register. The legal battles and maneuvering that our officials are daily engaged in, in the areas of job protection and protection of members and officials. I think it's time to reaffirm the policies that Bob Matthews made on Feb. 6, 1967, on the establishment of the Maritime Defense League and on the need of full membership support of that.

We can see that since the shoemakers in Philadelphia in 1794 tried to organize, that the bosses will try to use any means to prevent unions, and will subvert and attempt to destroy any union that does manage to organize. Now they are using the government itself with its nearly unlimited resources to stop unionism and, if possible, to destroy our only protections.



Cieslak

**Ed Brewer**

*Workshop #8*

We found the trend from fist fights to court of law fights in the defense of the individual, also political fights on the floor of the House of Representatives and in the Hall of Congress in Washington, D.C., in defense of and for the very survival of the unions. The legal eagles have become, and are, the prime basic necessity for that survival. I used the plural term unions to include our affiliates since Paul explained yesterday the importance of this unity in its various aspects.

It is a forgone conclusion or simple basic fact of life that if the union survives and progresses, we survive and progress. If the union goes down, we as individuals may or may not survive, and some certainly will not survive, and how about the families of our members? The enemies of our union have always, are now, and always will be, fighting and scheming to destroy us.



Brewer





SIU Vice President Earl Shepard goes over our contract, point by point, during a workshop session.

## Guarantees of the SIU Contract

The collective bargaining contract is one of the most important of all union documents to Seafarers. It spells out item by item, detail by detail, what a union man is entitled to for his day's work from the shipowner.

From the days before union contracts existed to the present time of carefully, fully-detailed agreements between the union and the employer, we can trace the growing economic achievement and security of Seafarers.

Over the years, the SIU has nailed down in its contracts increasing improvements for Seafarers on every phase of shipboard employment and welfare, beginning with the recognition of the union hiring hall—the keystone of all job security.

Today, in terms of total contractual benefits, the SIU members enjoy the finest in earnings, conditions and job security in the nation.

The Contract is the book by which Seafarers work. It is their guarantee of the protection of their dignity on the job.

Clearly, every SIU man should be familiar with the provisions of his contract—both the general provisions and those covering his particular job.

Should he be abused or short-changed in any way, he should take advantage of the union's grievance and contract enforcement procedures to assure that he gets all that he is entitled to.

It is equally important that he know the difference between

a good contract beef and one for which there is no justification.

As has been pointed out by various delegates at this conference, the American-flag merchant marine has been steadily declining. Many of our ships are over age, or are rapidly approaching that condition.

This is a situation that we look to the implementation of the Merchant Marine Act of 1970 to correct.

This is a situation that is definitely related to the contract, because it demands that we exercise a responsibility to assure that the maximum number of jobs will be kept available for our people.

Our union, many years ago, reached a position of strength where it could, upon demand, obtain virtually anything it wished from the shipowner. But because of the marginal condition and the stress of low-cost foreign-flag competition, we have been forced to exercise the utmost caution in order not to drive out of business those operators who could not afford to stay in business.

Other unions have not exer-

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cised the same restraint. As a result, they are today facing economic chaos because of the overwhelming ratio of men to contracted jobs.

The SIU enjoys the highest ratio of jobs to men of any seagoing union in the United States.

On the basis of developments since the passage of the Merchant Marine Act of 1970, it appears that we will be able to improve the security and op-

portunity of Seafarers and their families.

This fact shows that SIU policies have been correct—that we have exercised wisdom in projecting the course of the maritime industry.

We have reviewed in depth every aspect of the SIU contract and shipboard union activities.

As a result, we call upon the union to review and consider for the next contract negotiations:

- The possibility of providing alternatives in event the designated ratings are unable or unwilling to accept the positions of the committee chairman, educational director or secretary-reporter of the ships' committees.

- Provisions for an alternate day for the shipboard meeting in the event a vessel is in port on a Sunday.

- Raising deck maintenance vacation pay to the level of that received by other Group I ratings.

- Provisions for new job descriptions in accordance with the technological changes in new vessels.

- Crew's quarters on older

ships be modernized and made more comfortable.

- The initiation of an upgrading program for cooks and stewards.

- Compensation for crews on containerships with fast turn-around.

- A review of Section 39, Article 2 relating to securing a ship for sea before it leaves a harbor.

- The advisability of keeping the six-month shipping limitation on "B" seniority or returning to a 60-day rule in view of present shipping conditions.

- Development of an educational program to better inform the members of ships' committees.

The SIU contract will continue to be a vital document to every Seafarer. But as always, it is a reflection of the changing technology of our industry.

We are certain that we must meet the demands of the new technology in terms of preserving the competitive position of our industry, consistent with the union's traditional policy of protecting the rights and security of the membership.



Delegates in general session listen attentively as the expert explain the details of the SIU contract.



# Workshop Chairmen Report on Contract



Clarke

**Robert Clarke**

*Workshop #1*

We all know what a union contract is, but let me refresh your memories. A union contract is a written negotiation between the SIU and companies. It is to protect our living conditions, wages, overtime rates, and job security and work rules.

I know and I am sure some of you know, what it is like to work on a non-contract ship.

There is a difference. We have a good contract now with the SIU contracted vessels and with the leadership that we have, our contract has been improved each and every time. And believe me, the leadership in the SIU we have today is going to fight for us and improve every contract from here on in.



Brennan

**Tom Brennan**

*Workshop #2*

This morning in workshop #2, we discussed one of our most important instruments, our contract. And the most important part of that contract—recognition—because without recognition you have nothing. And in the industry we are recognized as the leader.

We also found out in the early days with no contract employees were at the mercy of the employer. Some of us may take for granted the contract we work under. But under the subject of labor history we found out about the early struggles our members went through to win that contract. And it's very important to pass that information on to the younger men coming into the industry, so that they also will appreciate what the oldtimers went through, and why the contract is so important.



Fulbright

**Francis Fulbright**

*Workshop #3*

The SIU is in a fortunate position today, in contrast to other maritime unions, due primarily to intelligent and farsighted leadership who enjoy the respect, confidence, and support of the rank and file.

In the economic aspects of the contract we do not have the highest basic wage in the industry but we do not judge a contract on this alone. In the matter of vacation, welfare, pension, and medical assistance to us and to our families, we are tops. In addition, much work done on ships that are routine duties on other union ships are overtime on some SIU ships, or in the majority of them. Our real earnings are the highest, rate for rate, of any union.



Stringer

**Jon Stringer**

*Workshop #4*

We found this morning that, obviously, there was no SIU before 1938, because we began in 1938. Before this the seamen worked at the whim of the employers. 1938 to 1951 there was no pension, welfare, or vacation unless you were on a ship for a full year, then you received one week—if you got off this ship then you might not be able to go back to work, if they didn't want to let you go.

1951 to 1971 is when the main benefits were arrived at. The things we have now were hard to get. Things like washing machines, dryers, TV, clean linens, soap—they never supplied them before. It was common to work 12-hour days; now we have 8-hour days.

**J. R. (Duke) Wilson**

*Workshop #5*

I will try to tell you how we can better ourselves in using our contract while aboard ship. As you all know, we refer to our contract as our Bible when in doubt. As the old saying goes, write it out. Now that is true, but you must really be in doubt or otherwise you will cause mass confusion at the payoff as well as on the ship's cruise.

Now, how can we eliminate this situation? Well, I will tell you my theory, and what I have tried to do about it through the years. First of all, understand your contract before you start writing and don't fly off the handle when the head of your department disputes something. Use a little diplomacy. Take a little time and read your contract, if in doubt, discuss it with your shipmates and your delegate.



Wilson

**Alvin Smith**

*Workshop #6*

We discussed our union's contract in detail. We were able to find out exactly how and why various provisions and work rules came into being. I, for one, have to admit that I was not really aware of the bloody struggles and strikes that made it possible for us to enjoy the wages, overtime, working conditions and living conditions that we enjoy aboard our contracted vessels.

As a result of participating in this educational conference I certainly have learned a great deal more of what really went in to winning and establishing our present contracts and conditions. There is one other vitally important thing that I have learned at this conference and that is that the contract is a two-way street. If we expect the shipowner to live up to his side of the agreement, we must expect to live up to our side as well.



Smith

**Nolan Savoie**

*Workshop #7*

We discussed contract, history and welfare; reading of the Merchant Marine Act of 1970; the SIU fighting for job security for seamen—all seamen; the conditions under which we have to sail these ships; also helping the ship operators to stay in business in order to put dollars in our pockets.

We also talked about the decline of the American fleet; about the companies going under the monkey flag; about new ship being built in yards here to put more of the Americans back to work. Ships being built are being manned by less men.

We also talked about keeping American flag ships with full cargo. And we also talked about Andrew Furuseth—how he fought for 20 years in the halls of Congress for the 1915 Seaman's Act.



Savoie

**Hayward Wilson**

*Workshop #8*

We've been in Piney Point for three days. We have learned three aspects of our SIU. One, history; two, legal; three, contract. If we were to take anyone of these aspects away, we wouldn't have an SIU.

Let's talk history for a moment. If the brothers did not go out on the docks and picket for months at a time and stay on the strike and fight—that's right, fight—not with mouth but physical force, bats, sticks, fists. Yes, these docks are bloody. We were fighting a monster, the shipowners, since then we have grabbed him by the tail and thrown him on his head.

From this we gained one of the greatest contracts in the maritime history. The money we used to make in a couple of months, we now make in a couple of days. We have one of the greatest vacation benefits in the world. We have one of the best living standards since the beginning of ships.



Wilson



# Political Education

# Political Action



For the Seafarer, political education and political action are as important as collective bargaining as a means of protecting their job security and achieving gains for themselves and their families.

For too long, seamen neglected this vital area, and their welfare was in constant jeopardy. But in the period following World War II, the SIU recognized that politics is porkchops, too, and required careful, continuing attention if the SIU membership's security was to be fully protected.

The program which was developed to meet our needs in the political arena called for effective representation on the legislative and governmental agency levels. And it demanded machinery to enable Seafarers as a group to participate in the political process through their support of candidates who would work for the best interests of the American merchant marine and those dependent upon it for their livelihood.

Our political education and action program, as the record so clearly indicates, is a highly successful one.

The passage of the Merchant Marine Act of 1970 is a most dramatic example. Equally important are the successful battles to prevent the enemies of American-flag shipping from destroying the Cargo Preference Laws, the difficult but constant effort to preserve the United States Public Health Service Hospitals, and the whole range of daily activities at the Washington level on every item affecting the Seafarer in scores of federal agencies and the Congress.

As the SIU's effectiveness and success in this political arena increased, the enemies of the union and its positions began mounting heavy attacks.

Very likely, if we were not fighting as hard as we are against "runaway"-flag operators and foreign-flag operators to assure greater job security for our people, we would not be making enemies.

And we would not be the primary target of governmental oppo-

sition if we did not oppose the State Department, the Agriculture Department and other agencies over their favored treatment of foreign-flag operators.

It is likely, too, that we would not be the object of attack by the Department of Labor if we had not criticized its policies with regard to the American labor movement.

Despite the attacks our policies have generated on a political level, we believe the union is correct in continuing political education and political action programs, and in fact in intensifying them.

Because the problems of Seafarers are continuing problems, we cannot diminish our activities in the effort to resolve them.

Moreover SIU members are entitled and guaranteed, as American citizens, the right to participate in the political process.

One of the means used by Seafarers to take part in their nation's political processes is through the Seafarers Political Activities Donation (SPAD) organization which was established to allow our members to support political candidates who support us.

SPAD gives the Seafarer a method of taking part in effective political action through his own voluntary donations.

Again, we commend our political education and political action programs and policies as being as important as collective bargaining from the standpoint of our collective security.

This conference recommends that the SIU continue and expand all aspects of its political education and political action programs.

We further recommend that SIU members be encouraged to actively participate in community, state and federal elections.

We also urge that the union continue its efforts to insure that all SIU members and their families register and vote in all elections.

For we have learned from the past that these activities are at the heart of our collective security as Seafarers and as citizens of a free nation.



It was a period of spirited discussion as delegates took up the subject of political education and political action. But there was unanimity in feeling when it came time to take a firm position on the subject. Above, Delegate G. Delgado, Houston, leads the discussion in his workshop.



# Reports on Political Education and Action



Cotton

## Robert Cotton Workshop #1

I'm grateful to Paul Drozak, and other officials from the port of Houston, for encouraging me to come to this conference. Thus far its been time well spent. The things I have learned here these past few days has helped me to get a better over-all picture of the union and its functions, and I will be more than happy to participate in any future conferences held.

Today we studied politics in general, and the political arm of the SIU in particular, SPAD. This was indeed interesting to all of us, as our union and its officials have been indicted for its political activities. We've found out why, and what is being done about it. We learned why our union is active in the political arena. One, is to bring about the enactment of legislation, so vital to the industry in which we are engaged. Two, to see that this legislation is properly implemented.

## Asa Moore Workshop #5

Today we talked on politics and the importance of this. Now, this is a subject I love better than a hog loves slop. And everyone of you in the SIU knows that it is a fact that we have the SIUNA, and this membership has a polling power of over a half a million votes. If we get these members to get off their fat butts and to go forward and to go to the registrar's office and to register to vote, then we would have a strong voting power.

Now we have a law on the books to help this sick, sick maritime industry. But this law ain't worth a damn if we don't get money. Now these people in their appropriations and finance committees, a lot of them are going to be up for election in 16 months. We've got to make those people on those committees that will put that money in there to make this a good deal.



Moore

## George Quinones Workshop #6

I'd like to talk about the political arena and its importance to us because that's where the action is, and we want a piece of that action—not all of it, but our fair share, at least. P. T. Barnum used to have "the greatest show on earth." But today that show is in Washington, D.C.

If we look at the record, we will see that the only time that the American seaman was given the right time was when he was active politically. It was only as a result of effective political action that we were able to achieve the following: The Seaman's Act of 1915; the Merchant Marine Act of 1936; the Cargo Preference Act, better known as the 50-50 Law; the setting up of the Maritime Advisory Committee; and finally, the Merchant Marine Act of 1970, which was the ace of all aces and which is going to mean the difference for us in the future.



Quinones



Dixon

## James Dixon Workshop #2

Today in workshop #2 we discussed politics and how politics affect each and every SIU member. We now know how SPAD almost single-handedly keeps the 50-50 Law, Public Law No. 480 on the books, which in turn means jobs, money for the better things in life. We know now that the Merchant Marine Act of 1970 is the end result of our participation in SPAD and that we should expand our efforts concerning SPAD on a regular basis, not just once every 3 or 4 years. We really know that foreign shipping lobbies are out to finish us off.

We, therefore, must continue our fight in the political arena, elect friends who believe in building more American ships and hauling more cargo.

## Jack Ryan Workshop #7

Since coming here to Piney Point, my eyes have been opened to the needs, the means, and the help that this and all of our members can participate in. This is our life, our union, our lifeline, and our life ahead, and we should stand, one for all and all for one.

The men with sight and integrity started to see how we could upgrade ourselves better and become voting citizens, get our voice in the capitol and be heard. This all took time and downright hard work and, most of all, money. Money was one of the main causes. So the Committee on Political Education was born, better known as COPE. Then came SPAD (Seafarers Political Activity Donation) and this is where we get a percent of our working capital to help ourselves and help us in our society, political and otherwise.



Ryan



Perry

## Everett Perry Workshop #3

We had an excellent discussion on political education. Very few seamen have the time or the inclination to stop and read the record or the voting record or tendencies of each and every delegate that is going into Congress. Therefore, we must depend on some other source. We are fortunate, extremely fortunate, that we in the SIU have a paper, *The Log*, which ranks second to none in the labor field. This isn't an accident. It didn't just happen.

Today when we are asked for a \$20 donation, to SPAD, I see and hear many of my fellow men raising hell about \$20. Break it down, what is it? 40 cents a week. A pack of butts. For 40 cents a week you're insured that we're going to get the right men to back us out there in Congress.

## Frank Lebda Workshop #4

In Workshop #4 we discussed politics about congressmen, senators, and other public officials on a better maritime bill. We discussed SPAD donations and workshop 4 feels that the membership should continue donations to SPAD in order to support public officials who believe in a bigger and better merchant marine fleet. That's labor view on politics.

Samuel Gompers once said 63 years ago and it still holds true: "Reward your friends and punish your enemies." Seafarers in politics? If we hadn't gotten into politics, there would not have been a Seaman's Act and sailors might still be slaves, as they were half a century ago, after Lincoln had freed the black man.

I recommend that this educational conference go on record to continue supporting SPAD.



Lebda

## Frank Conforto Workshop #8

We discussed the subject of political education, and when we discussed political education, as President Hall said, "All phases of our union activities are important to each and every one of us." Labor history, what it was in the past and present and what it will be in the future, the legal aspects, the SIU contract and how the SIU through the years and through the leadership of President Hall and all the SIU elected officials have fought and will continue to fight in Washington, D.C., for our benefit.

The reason I mentioned the subjects that we discussed in the previous days is because I feel that they all in some way or another fit in, come together. I feel that political education is just as important or more important to us as any of the above-named subjects.



Conforto





# Pension, Welfare and Vacation Programs

Pension, welfare and vacation benefits today form a basic part of a seafaring man's living. Along with his wages, these three areas of union-negotiated benefits enable him and his family to enjoy a decent standard of living free from unnecessary worry.

Great strides have been made in each of these benefit areas since the union initiated them in the 1950's.

This past year the union negotiated an extension of the pension plan which provides for retirement on full pension of \$250 a month at age 55 with 20 years of seetime. Seafarers have already begun to receive this new benefit.

The pension improvement was instituted after a long period of discussion throughout the union, and a careful, cautious study of the factors that influence pensions and the ability of a pension fund to guarantee that there will always be money to pay all pensions for life.

The new pension benefit was gained without sacrificing or reducing that very unusual feature of unlimited medical expenses for the retired man, and continued coverage of his wife under the welfare plan throughout his lifetime.

Nor was there any change in the provisions that make it possible for a Seafarer to retire at 65 with 15 years of seetime, or at any age for a pension of disability after 12 years of seetime.

It is the factor of pension

management and administration that makes the SIU Pension Plan, we believe, superior.

Many of us are aware of what is common knowledge in the maritime industry: that the pension plan of another union—the National Maritime Union—is in serious difficulty. We know of the threat this condi-

tion poses to the SIU Pension Plan a soundly conceived, soundly financed, responsibly administered pension system affording security, without worry, to the Seafarer after he completes his working years.

We are certain that the caution which underlines our plan will continue to be applied so the fund will have the financial soundness and the ability to consider additional improvements in the years ahead.

Our Seafarers' Welfare Plan also has been shaped to provide the maximum possible help to SIU men and their families. Our program includes a broad range of benefits covering hospitalization, optical care, death payments, sickness and accident benefits, and heavy emphasis on preventive medicine through frequent medical examinations.

Here, too, we can be assured that our SIU will continue to pioneer in new types of benefits, as well as to broaden the coverage of existing benefits.

Seafarers also enjoy an unusual vacation plan. This benefit is given in the form of cash payments to be taken at the option of the Seafarer whenever he desires, whether or not he gets off his vessel.

We have seen a steady climb from the \$140 a year which was paid at its inception to the \$1,400 paid today in the key ratings, the \$1,200 to those in the middle ratings and the \$1,000 to men working entry ratings.

Our entire range of pension, welfare and vacation programs

is sound. Seafarers need not be concerned about the ability of these plans to meet their needs today.

We also believe that our union is conscious of the importance of these fringe benefits which touch directly each of our members, and has indicated its desire to pioneer in the de-

velopment and expansion of these programs.

As a result of this conference, many of the participants have suggested for consideration the following recommendations affecting these plans:

- Review the pension program to ascertain the possibility of widow's pensions being extended beyond the existing six-month period following the death of a retired Seafarer.

- Study the feasibility of relaxing the limitation on employment in the maritime industry for men on SIU pensions.

- Examine the possibility of providing disability benefits for men disabled prior to the time when they have reached the 12-year seetime requirement for a disability pension.

- Study ways and means of speeding up the application and disbursement procedures for welfare payments in the out-ports.

- Review the possibility of making available welfare benefits to members of families retired and living outside the United States.

- Study the possibility of including the deck maintenance rating in the \$1,400 vacation-pay bracket.

- Examine the possibility of providing SIU medical clinics on the West Coast to families of SIU members.

- Investigate the use of Public Health Service extension facilities to provide medical care for Seafarers and their families where existing care is not adequate.

In addition, the conference reaffirms the SIU's traditional support for the continued operation and the expansion of United States Public Health Service hospitals.

The conference regards this subject of continuing interest to all Seafarers and their families and advises all members to be fully aware of all facets of the benefits and the ways to use them.

## SEAFARERS LOG



## SEAFARERS LOG



For the good and welfare and all—good food, good surroundings. At left, happy faces in the galley line. Right, good talk at the dining room table.



# Chairmen Report on Fringe Benefits



Annis

**George Annis**  
*Workshop #1*

I represent workshop #1, and, of course, we had the pension, welfare, and vacation. We had Bill Hall for our chairman this morning, and like he said, as far as vacation went, I remember when I first started I never even got a vacation check until they put that 90-day clause in. I never could stay a year.

But I believe this committee, or whatever we are, should think of some of the minority of our members. I'd like to bring that up. We have quite a few members who are married, have children, but who are overseas. And they are on the ships along with us, the time they put in, I believe, the company should pay them the same amount of money as us. They have their dependents, and their dependents, I believe, should be qualified for the hospitalization and benefits the same as us that live here.

**Jose Castell**  
*Workshop #2*



Castell

We discussed in depth our pension, welfare, and vacation plans—the so-called fringe benefits, and I must say that we had one hell of a lively discussion in our workshop. There were certainly wide differences of opinion expressed as to what would be the best course for our union to steer to properly safeguard and protect our members interests.

One thing I am convinced of is that our union made the right move when they did not allow us to be stamped into going for the 20-year bust-out that the other unions went for. The wisdom of this position is surely clear now as we see what is happening in our industry.

**J. W. Allen**  
*Workshop #3*



Allen

In workshop #3 today we followed the growth of vacation pay, our benefits, and pension fund. I became a member of the SIU two years after the vacation plan became a fact. I've done my share of bitching, but never on this subject—welfare, vacation and pension. I maintain that we the membership leave it stand as it is for the period of time it will take us to see our way clear to go ahead.

My attitude has taken a 180° turn since I have been here. We do not tie up a ship for a bottle of ketchup or a jar of peanut butter anymore. I thank our officials for their foresight and a job well done.

**Charles Mazur**  
*Workshop #4*



Mazur

We had the honor of Brother Al Kerr, who is our Secretary and Treasurer, coming in and giving us a very informative talk on the subjects and answering questions asked by some of the delegates present. All the information given to us regarding the Welfare Program in its entirety, from its inception up to the present time, has cleared up for us many doubts or misunderstandings which may have existed in our minds regarding this generous program from which the active Seafarers and his dependents benefit.

Special emphasis was given on how much better and how much sounder our Pension Plan is than that of the NMU. The many reasons why our Pension Plan is so much better are very simple. With dedicated men like our President, Paul Hall, and our elected officials always fighting for the membership's best interests, we shall always have the best of all the others.

**Earl (Blackie) Harrison**  
*Workshop #5*



Harrison

I'm Blackie Harrison from Tampa, Florida. We are here for your welfare and not your cab fare. We discussed in workshop #5 today, with able assistance of John Day and Red Morris, discussed, as all you brothers did, the Welfare, Vacation and Pension plans. And to think of how far we have come since the innovation of the Vacation Plan from \$115.00 a year to \$1400 a year is remarkable. After a little over twenty years, fellows, just think how far we've come. \$1200 for the second man and \$1000 the group three man. I think that's amazing.

On our welfare plan, just consider the benefits of hospitalization for our families, the amount of money saved the average seaman that has any trouble at home with his family. You just couldn't be able to pay it, the way we've been going. I want to thank the SIU, because it helped me on many occasions with my family.

**Tom Garrity**  
*Workshop #6*



Garrity

I am a pensioner, I want to tell you I couldn't live on this pension like I do, if we were on welfare, I'll tell you that. We have all the modern facilities at home, I'm not bragging. We sure couldn't afford that on welfare. We have some school teachers here, some vice presidents, some port agents, some headquarter agents, and I think all of these fellows deserve a vote of thanks, I'll tell you. You're doing a wonderful job. And I think when we all leave here, there's going to be some well-educated fellows as far as the union is concerned, and I include myself. For the material you've had to work with, you're doing a wonderful thing.

**Fernando Munoz**  
*Workshop #7*



Munoz

I have been with this union since 1943. That takes me back to Stoney Street. At first, there were no welfare benefits and a seaman did not want to take on the responsibility of a family because he had no welfare plan to help him or his loved ones. But with the inception of the SIU Welfare Plan in 1951, the seaman has seen the benefits grow to what we have today. He has total protection for his wife and children from birth to death, from the cradle to the grave, if you will. He knows that they not only are protected, but, too, even if he is on the beach, if he is hurt off the job, he will receive compensation from his union.

I know that with the leadership we have today, our union will continue to look out for the best interest of all of us. Within a very few years, I will be receiving a pension that will protect me for the rest of my life.

**James Sanders**  
*Workshop #8*



Sanders

As you heard before, we discussed the vacation plan, the pension plan, and the welfare plan. And also Brother Kerr came in and gave us a talk on what is involved in getting this vacation plan and welfare plan started. As he said, they figured that the welfare plan was much more important than the vacation plan when they first got it started. And I believe it was. Most people have families, most seamen, and, this way, when you go to sea, you don't have to worry too much about your family. They're pretty well taken care of. Sometimes a telegram doesn't get to a ship too quick. They have ways of getting them out. But I know that we have a lot of trouble getting information from home, when you're a couple or 3,000 miles from sea.



## Education:

# Trade Union, Vocational and Academic

In our SIU, there is increasing emphasis being placed on the subject of education—on every aspect of education that directly affects the individual Seafarer on and off the job, as a worker and as a citizen.

In dealing with the subject of education, the conference participants enjoyed an unusual experience in examining first-hand all of the areas in which the union has been promoting a more knowledgeable membership.

For years our SIU has been active in the field of union education, vocational education and related activities. The SIU for example, launched the first college scholarship program in the maritime field for the children of SIU men and the SIU program has given each year five (4) four year scholarships to colleges of their choosing to 88 Seafarers and dependents of Seafarers.

But for the first time, we now have a major center for the entire educational system of our organization. That center, of course, is the site of our present conference in Piney Point, Md., the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship.

Many of us were truly amazed, as was expressed during our discussions in general sessions, at the extent and quality of the facilities and faculty which have been made available to our people at Piney Point.

The program has been structured to offer benefits to every segment within our union—to the newer man in the industry and to the old timer as well.

It is clear that the SIU is pioneering in this field of worker education. There are three broad areas that the program embraces—vocational, academic and trade union education.

The conference members observed in operation all phases of the vocational training program. We talked with the professional Seafarers who staff the school. We inspected the school's vocational training facilities, as well as the equipment and training aids which are used in conducting the courses for work in all shipboard departments.

This vocational training program is making an important contribution to SIU men. It is providing a better quality entry man who is oriented to shipboard life, and it is offering under ideal training conditions the opportunity for Seafarers to upgrade their skills and to improve their earning capacity aboard ship.

This program not only benefits those who participate, but it results in better qualified and more skilled shipmates who are able to carry their share of the team load on the job.

One of the dramatic accomplishments of the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship is the academic program. Coordinated with the vocational training and trade union education programs, the academic program makes available comprehensive remedial reading instruction utilizing the most modern equipment under the guidance of highly qualified professional teachers. The remedial reading course enables SIU men of all ages to improve their reading skills which is of utmost importance in the proper performance of shipboard duties and to better their lives through reading.

The academic program also embraces the first opportunity within the trade union movement for members who have not completed high school the

chance to be prepared for examinations leading to high school equivalency diplomas.

The school, in its short period of operation, has achieved a remarkable record of success, with the overwhelming number of participants acquiring their high school equivalency certificates.

The heart-warming feature is that many of these young men, for one hardship reason or another, had been unable to complete their high school education.

In the familiar area of trade union education, the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship is enabling Seafarers to study the history of the trade union movement as well as that of their own SIU. The school utilizes the same instructional equipment and aids that are used in the academic sector of the program.

This program will have an important impact on our entire union education program. Those coming from the school will be better qualified to serve on their shipboard committees and to act as the communication's link between the union and the ships' crews.

The conference is pleased that it had the opportunity to observe the facilities at Piney Point, the site of the SIU Crews and Conferences and Pensioners Conferences conducted late last year. These conferences, together with the current two-week education conference, are having a useful and informative affect upon the members of our union.

We are proud that our union is blazing a trail in this new area of coordinated union educational opportunities for the seafaring man, and we look forward to the continued development and expansion of the facilities and the opportunities they afford.

We recommend consideration of the following:

✓ That the high school equivalency program at the Harry Lundeberg School be made generally available to all Seafarers at the school, at sea and in other areas ashore.

✓ That the Harry Lundeberg School continue its work with the University of Nebraska to implement a correspondence course designed for Seafarers, to be made available to them at sea and ashore.

✓ That the SIU scholarship program be reviewed with the possibility of expansion to make available to more members and their dependents the benefits of higher education.

✓ That a review be made of the recertification programs to meet the needs and preserve the rights of members who will be manning the more sophisticated ships that will come into service under the Merchant Marine Act of 1970.

✓ That a study be made toward developing a comprehensive steward department training program to upgrade members from bottom to top in that department.

✓ That every effort be made to encourage full participation in all shipboard meetings by all crew members to further their trade union education, and especially their knowledge of their own SIU.

Education is the keystone to the strength of any organization. The SIU, through its comprehensive range of educational opportunities, has established a firm foundation to develop this strength. We are convinced that the members of our union wish to continue to build upon that foundation in order to gain the ultimate strength through knowledge.



Delegates in workshops take up the study of their subject for the day: Education, trade union, vocational and academic. The study took a full day.



# Workshop Chairmen Report on Education



Browning

**Ballard Browning**

*Workshop #1*

In Classroom #1 we had a discussion on education within our union and the Harry Lundberg School of Seamanship. I can take the whole afternoon session talking about the different educational programs that the union offers our membership and their children who wish to be seamen in the near future. Still, the same opportunity exists for non-member's kids, and still I could not cover all of this educational program in the SIU at Piney Point.

In 1944 I came out of the hills of Kentucky and I considered that my lucky year. I went to Cincinnati, Ohio, to join the service and don't laugh, but somehow I ended up in the wrong line . . . and ended up in the maritime service.

But I consider myself lucky again by being placed on an SIU ship.

**Tom Foster**

*Workshop #2*



Foster

Our topic today was education instructed by Paul Drozak and Benny Wilson. We had a visit in class today from Mrs. Currey, one of the teachers from GED, who spoke on the academic phase of the program, going through here at Piney Point. One point that impressed me was that state-wide, here in Maryland, people taking the same high school evaluation test as our boys do, 30 percent pass as opposed to 81 percent of trainees enrolling in GED. The most remarkable part is most of these boys were high school dropouts getting a second chance.

Then, we had a speaker who explained the vocational training given covering all three departments on ships, as well as the way these boys are trained to respect and obey orders of their supervisors. Of all this, I think back to when most of us started.

**Joe Galliano**

*Workshop #3*



Galliano

You all recognize this as a menu cover from the restaurant, but the main ingredient, the main course in here, is food for thought. Although we had an interesting and informative discussion on education and the educational programs of our organization, my report pertains to education specifically. When I asked myself what is education, I realized that I didn't know what it meant, so I decided to do a little research.

According to the dictionary, education is (1) the process of training and developing the knowledge, skill, mind, character, etc., especially by formal schooling, teaching, training; (2) knowledge, ability, etc., thus developed; (3) formal schooling; (4) systematic study of the problems, methods, and theories of teaching and learning.

It means, that what I have just mentioned is only a small part of education.

**Francis Gomez**

*Workshop #4*



Gomez

The subject discussed was education. We discussed how these educational programs for the union workers were limited to the teaching of a particular skill or trade in connection with the American Industrial Revolution. We also learned that the SIU Educational Program is a departure from the established pattern of workers education to three general programs: Vocational, Academic, and Trade Union Education.

We learned too that the SIU has long been recognized in academic education through its scholarship program, where in a total of eighty-eight Seafarers and dependents of Seafarers received SIU scholarships during 17 years.

We learned that the comprehensive remedial reading program and the GED High School Equivalency Instruction is the first of its kind in the history of the American labor movement.

**Elmer Barnhill**

*Workshop #5*



Barnhill

This morning we had education just like everybody did, and we talked about the boys going to school here in Piney Point. And they gave a very good explanation of what's going on here and everything and a lot of guys, a couple of guys, didn't agree with the kids they had from school before. Now, in my opinion, I've been aboard ship and I've had guys go help these kids and to try to teach them. And they say, to hell with them. Let them learn the way I had to learn. Well, somebody damn sure had to teach them, didn't they?

Then we had Mrs. Brown come around and talk about the education classes held here on this ship, which I think is a wonderful thing. And then we discussed that if anybody in our union that wanted to come through this school they could come, which is also very nice.

**Frank Pasaluk**

*Workshop #6*



Pasaluk

The discussion brought to the surface the critical need for knowledge and education, if for no other reason, than we have an understanding of the problems that confront us in a constantly changing industry, and, yes, an even faster changing world. Generally, our knowledge is limited to only that information that will answer that problem at that moment and many beefs are raised and discussed with patrolmen and company officials where a comprehensive set of facts are not presented. This condition could be remedied in every instance if somebody would take the time to acquire the knowledge from the contract.

**John Ferro**

*Workshop #7*



Ferro

We covered the word "Education," which, in itself, we are getting here today, which means, labor, pension, SPAD, and what have you. I know you feel the way I do, that now you can go back to your home port and inform your brothers the meaning of this meeting and what it has done for us, and the meaning of it in the future.

**Willard McMillion**

*Workshop #8*



McMillion

Education, which I didn't have much of when I started to sea in 1927. When I got off the ship, I'd take a little pad and pencil with me and I'd write down the name of the ship so I'd know the name of the ship I was on. And I think it's a very important part, in just upgrading and understanding.

Another subject concerns reading material aboard ships. Everybody should understand to read. One of the most important things is communication between the SIU men on ship and the union hall. I feel that communication doesn't consist only through the material we get through the mail and stuff, but it's sitting down and discussing and communicating one to another, which is very important.

There's another thing: I read the Log a lot, and I've learned a lot through reading the Log. And I think all of us should try to read the Log a little more.





# SIU Constitution: A Document Affecting the Life of Every Seafarer

The SIU Constitution is a document which personally affects every SIU member every day of his life. It is the law by which we live. It spells out the rights, responsibilities and obligations of the member and of the union itself.

It guarantees the rights of the individual, but to exercise those rights we must know our constitution. We must know it, and understand it, and use it.

As has been stressed by participants in this conference, the preamble of the constitution stands as our Bill of Rights. It states in clean, concise language that these rights "shall be preserved." The preamble also reminds SIU members that they have the responsibilities that go along with those rights and privileges.

In our study and discussion of the SIU Constitution, we were aware that it is a document of, by and for the seaman. Just as all such documents, it is less than perfect. But to constantly improve it so that it will meet the needs of the present, our constitution contains a process for amendment.

The SIU Constitution is unique in that any individual member, at any regular union meeting, may begin the process of constitutional change. In fact, every SIU meeting is, in itself, a constitutional meeting.

Over the years, most of the changes in our constitution have come about to conform with the nation's changing laws, and new or different interpretations of those laws. Other changes have been adopted to tighten the protections and guarantees of the rights of SIU members and to perfect and make more effective our union procedures.

Every facet of the individual's involvement and of the union's basic operations and procedures are governed by the provisions of the constitution.

It specifies the conditions of membership; spells out the qualifications, procedures for election, and the duties of the officers of the union; it designates the various committees—such as trials, appeals and finance—and their functions, and it contains in

minute detail the balloting procedures that must be strictly adhered to, to guarantee that every Seafarer has the right to full participation.

Our constitution tells us of the proper procedures to be followed in the conduct of union meetings, as well as the manner in which amendments can be effected.

These are but a few of the areas by which the SIU Constitution provides the rules by which all of us must conduct ourselves in order to protect each other's individual rights, and those of the union as the collective instrument of all.

In our review of the SIU Constitution, we observed that this basic document has been fashioned to meet the very special kinds of problems that Seafarers have because of the unusual nature of their trade.

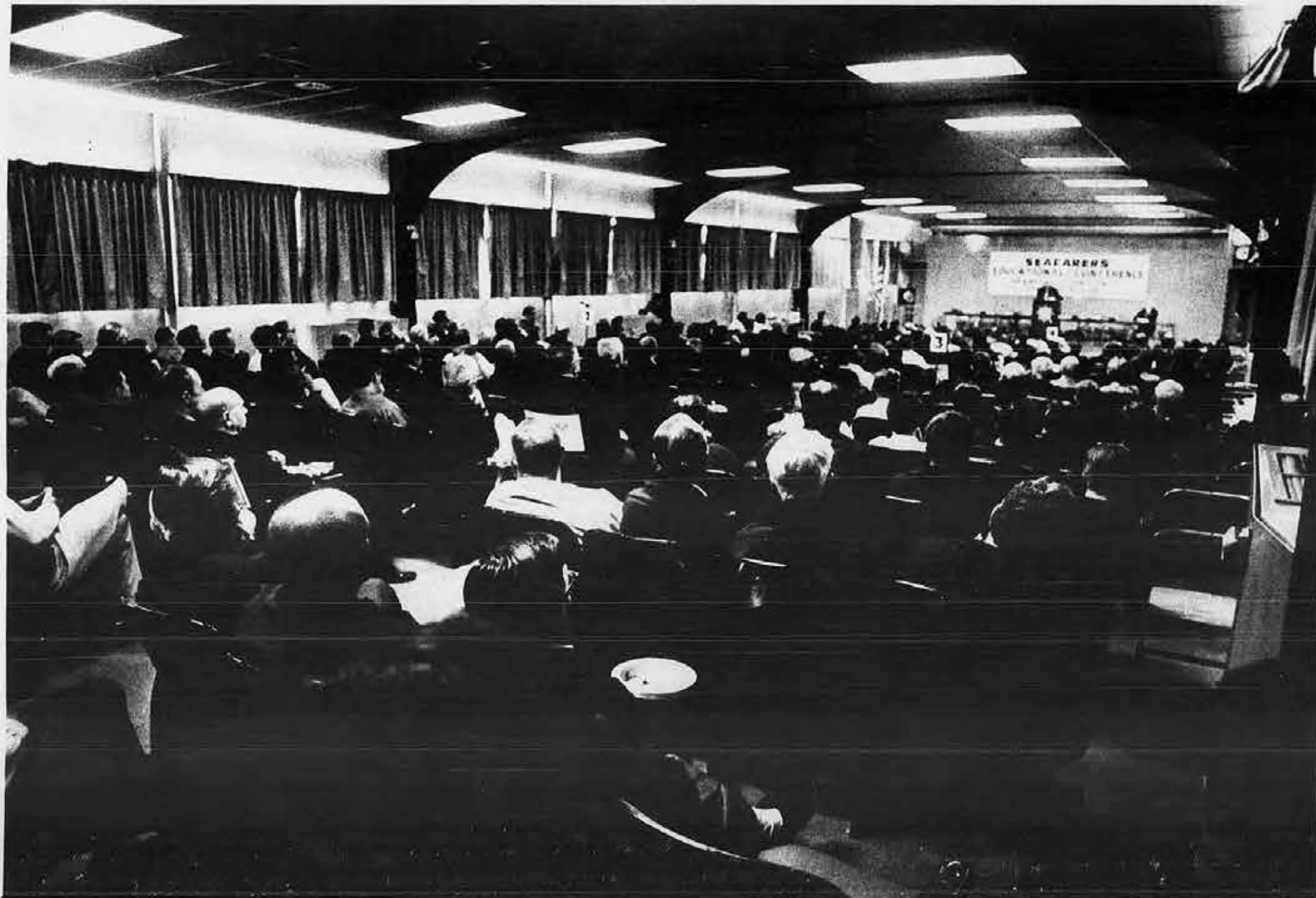
Detailed as it is, no document is more important to a Seafarer than his union constitution. We feel that a thorough knowledge of this document, how it provides the union with its operating procedures and the method in which it guarantees the individual's rights, will give an insight into the unique character of the Seafarers International Union and its members.

Our first and foremost recommendation, therefore, is to urge all members, as the SIU is constantly doing, to familiarize themselves with this entire document.

In this regard, we call attention to the opportunity made available to all Seafarers to have access to their constitution through our union's policy of publishing the SIU Constitution in full every six months in the *Seafarers Log*.

We feel, too, that consideration should be given to a study of the advisability of an amendment to make San Francisco one of the union's Constitutional Ports because of the union's continuing growth and increased activities on the West Coast.

We are proud of our constitution, for it is a living document responsive to the changing needs of Seafarers and their union. We want to keep it that way.



The SIU Constitution was the subject of a long and involved general session. Here is a view from the back of the auditorium.



# Workshop Chairmen Report on Constitution



Waters

**Pete Waters**  
Workshop #1

In Workshop #1 this morning we discussed the constitution. I don't have this written down, but when we see movies as we have seen this week, some of us feel like we have done damn, damn, little to enjoy the comforts and conditions that we have today. The Preamble says it is among our objects to use our influence individually and collectively for the purpose of maintaining and developing skill in seamanship and effecting change in the maritime law of the USA, so as to render it more equitable and to make it an aid, instead of a hindrance to the development of a merchant marine.

Since I have been in the SIU, I have done my best to do just that aboard ship and ashore, and that is why I'm here to learn all I can to make the SIU a better and stronger union.

**Gary Jarvis**  
Workshop #2



Jarvis

The constitution is the most important document affecting the SIU member. It has been declared by many public officials as "a model for self-government." The constitution is the document that sets forth the rules and regulations by which our union shall be governed. It describes the duties of all elected officials, namely, the president, executive vice president, vice president in charge of contracts and contract enforcement, secretary of treasure, vice president in charge of Atlantic Coast, vice president in charge of Lakes and Inland Waters, headquarters representatives, port agents, patrolmen, executive board, delegates, and committees.

The constitution also describes: wages and terms of office of officers and other elective job holders. It sets forth qualifications for officers, representatives, agents, and patrolmen.

**F. Sellman**  
Workshop #3



Sellman

As all the other workshops did, we discussed the constitution, not only what it means to the officials, but what it means to us. You can call it a lot of things, but the preamble should very well be called the "Bill of Rights" for seamen. It's our protection. We got into the two main changes in it. Number one being the balloting procedure, the length at which the union has gone to protect our right of secret ballot. If you don't like him, don't vote for him, but he won't know it. You can tell him you did. It's going to be expensive, but it'll work. To keep the government from wiping us out.

**Herwood B. Walters**  
Workshop #4



Walters

Today we discussed constitution, and this is something I think all of us should know. What is the constitution and what are its uses? A constitution sets forth the rules and regulations on how an organization and its members are to be governed. In other words, constitution is law, the law we agree to live by and with, and we found constitution applies not only to members but to officers as well.

We also learned that constitution is to us as a contract is to a shipowner and we should abide by our constitution as we would expect companies to abide by our contract.

**Eric Johnston**  
Workshop #5



Johnston

At a time in history when people were ruled, and most of the time badly, by kings who had no thoughts for the welfare of the people, there came on the scene, not so long after William the Conqueror, John of England. This man must have been a particularly bad tyrant, because it was in his reign that the people, represented by the Baron, forced him to accept the first constitution ever formulated, called the Magna Carta or the Great Charter. Although basic in form, as it must have been at that time, it must have also been strong and to the point, because it is in this document that all constitutions, whether it be a group of people forming a government, a company, a club, or even between man and wife, that the basic right emulates.

**Ernest Hoitt**  
Workshop #6



Hoitt

This morning we studied the Bible, yes I said the Bible, of our union, the constitution. Al Kerr, secretary-treasurer gave us a talk on this subject. As we studied the preamble, I realized where the SIU got all its strength over the years. It was very enlightening to find out that we have changed the constitution only a few times since the founding of our union in 1938. This in itself, is of great importance.

It is very important that we continue to fight and defend our constitution. It is the responsibility of all members to protect the constitution, and support a journal, the *Seafarers Log*. We should also support our leadership in changing the maritime law in the Halls of Congress.

**Willie Barron**  
Workshop #7



Barron

Our discussion was on constitution. Mr. Al Kerr explained in detail the change in the Constitution on membership books. The preamble was read in its entirety. The preamble sets forth the purpose of our constitution, statements of principles and declarations of rights and spells out what we stand for. It was fully brought up to date as changes in election procedures, giving more members an opportunity to have a voice in their union.

And I would like to say while I have the microphone, what this conference has meant to me. It's the greatest thing that has ever happened to me since I've been in the union. And, it has not only brought me closer to my fellow members, but it has brought me closer to my union officials.

**Elmer Lamb**  
Workshop #8



Lamb

I'm very glad to be here, I've learned a lot of things, and I've been several years in the union, and I've learned a lot of things, our constitution was so good that there didn't even have to be many amendments made in it, and that shows that we have able leadership to draw up that constitution.

We even get commendations from various congressmen, saying that we have one of the best constitutions, and some of them are enemies of labor. They say we got a damn good constitution and other labor leaders should follow our example.

We brought up several things, for example, that a man might be unjustly accused, and if somebody wants to get a fine levied against the man, that we have some flexibility there, and they explained it to us.





# Harry Lundeborg School: A Look to the Future All Seafarers

The Harry Lundeborg School of Seamanship at Piney Point, Md., along with all of the facilities available here, is a look to the future—the future of all Seafarers.

There is no question that the school itself gives youngsters a chance that might otherwise be lost—a chance to face manhood with skill and knowledge. Those of us who have had HLSS graduates as our shipmates know that they are well prepared. They need only the helping hand that we, as professionals, can give them.

We have found that they make good seamen, good shipmates, good union men, and good citizens.

In our discussions at the conference, we've observed that HLSS is more than just a school for apprentices. It is a step toward a better life for Seafarers who want to upgrade their skills and to learn new ones. The facilities are here, available to all SIU members.

And there is more. It is a place to improve our reading skills and academic knowledge. It is a place where we can study for the high school diploma some of us missed out on long years ago.

It is a place where we can come to improve our minds and our skills in our craft.

It is also a place for relaxation—a family vacation land open all year round with excellent vacation facilities at a price we can afford.

It is a place where we—as Seafarers and as a union—are making an effort to meet the challenges of the future.

The Piney Point facility is designed to meet these challenges through education, both basic and advanced, through our own togetherness here as a family unit, and through our faith in ourselves and to ourselves.

We've learned that this Seafarers Village will be a modern community, complete with shopping center and transportation, where Seafarers, young and old, married or single, will be welcomed to make their homes.

We've learned that this will be a place where Seafarers and their families will be in the majority, where we will do for ourselves what other communities have failed to do—understand us and understand our problems.

If we have something to criticize about the facilities at Piney

Point, it would be that they weren't started years and years ago.

Because we are interested in these facilities and because we would like to see them improved as quickly as possible, we make the following suggestions:

- That upgrading facilities to prepare Seafarers for the requirements of new shipboard technology be instituted at HLSS.
- That more SIU members be encouraged and enabled to participate in HLSS programs, particularly the academic and high school equivalency programs, either at the Piney Point facility or through the correspondence courses now being developed.
- That recreational facilities be expanded, where possible, to include tennis and golf.
- That camping facilities be made available in conjunction with the Seafarers Village.

As members of the SIU, we know that we face many problems. We try to meet each one as it comes up even as we try to find the road to a better tomorrow.

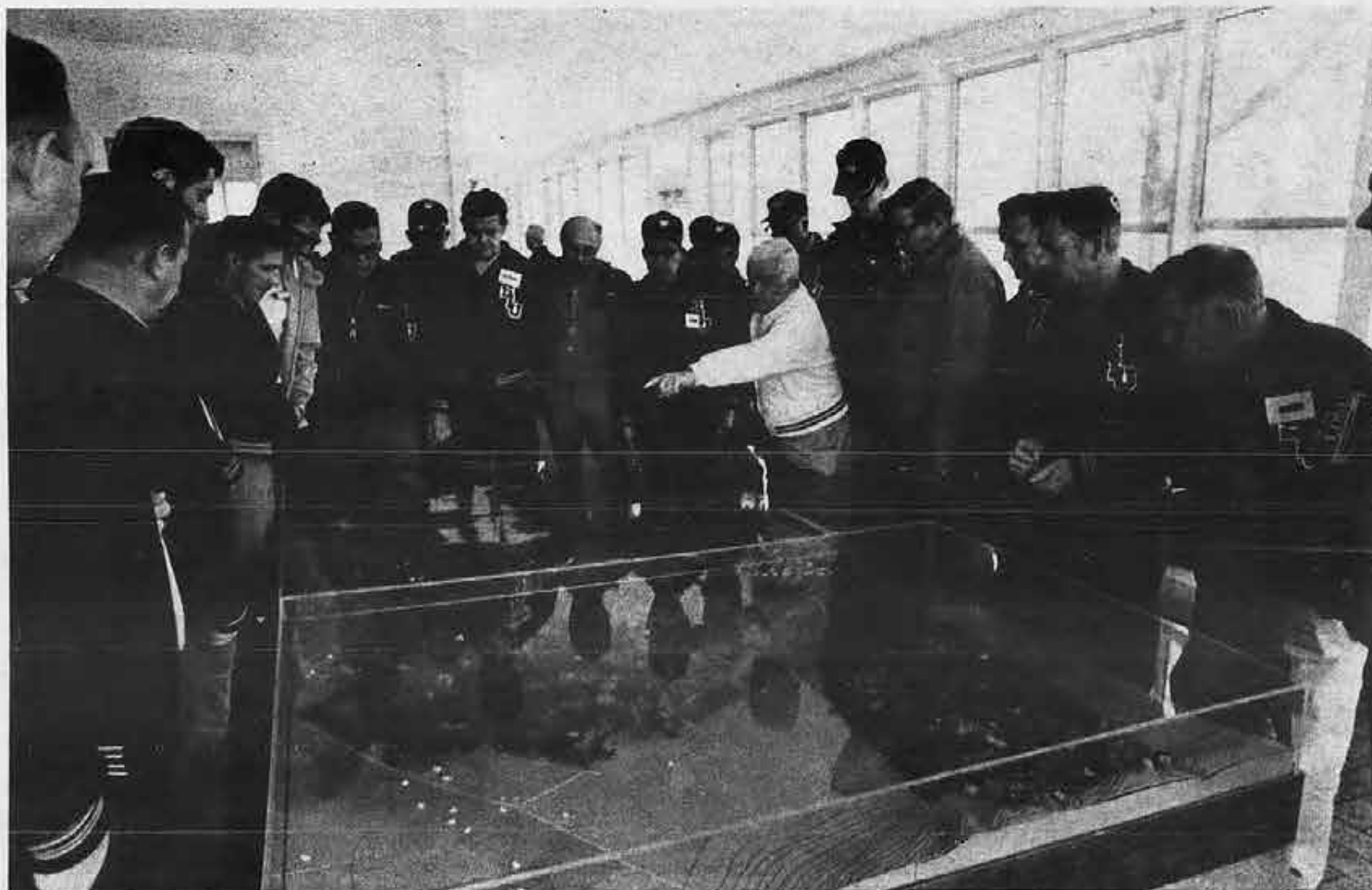
Many of us here at this conference, and many of our shipmates, have criticized this experiment at Piney Point. Most of us will not criticize it again. Most of us will carry this story back to our shipmates—that the road to a better tomorrow could be the road to Piney Point.

Above all, let there be no stagnation in the SIU. HLSS is a training ground for union leaders of tomorrow. For all SIU members, let this be a place where questions are asked and answered, where tired minds can be refreshed and invigorated, where tired bodies can relax. Let it be the place for our future.

## ADDENDA

The following recommendation was submitted by Henry Roberts, chairman of workshop #5, at the afternoon session on March 12, and concurred in by the assembled delegates:

It is recommended that an evaluation form, similar to the letter that HLSS graduates are required to send back to the school after their first trip, be supplied to each department head, namely bosun, chief electrician, or chief steward, and that these forms be filled out by the department heads and sent back to the last port to let headquarters know what type of worker the individual HLSS graduate has been found to be.



Delegates took time from their busy schedules to examine plans for a Seafarers Village to be built on property adjacent to the Harry Lundeborg School of Seamanship. It will be a village in which Seafarers are in the majority.



# Workshop Chairmen Report on HLSS



Canales

## Carlos Canales

### Workshop #1

The Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship is a chance for a kid to prepare himself for the beginning of his life. The decision of what a kid would like to make of himself, is left up to the individual. The more effort he puts into his work, the further he will advance. As we all know, the better you like what you are doing, the better you are at it.

The students of the Harry Lundeberg School will join a ship with a knowledge of many fields, that we did not acquire until our third year at sea. This put a hardship on the men that were already sailing. Today's seamen, more than ever, will be responsible for more sophisticated ships and the demands for increasing skills and professionalism. These opportunities are also available to the men of our SIU ships. The key to this school's success is the fact that the school is geared to the student and his ability to learn.



DiCapua

## Pete DiCapua

### Workshop #2

Last week in workshop #2 they were taking the age of all the members in our group and somehow, well, they got misplaced, and Steve Troy had to take them over again this morning. While he did I was jotting them down and I got the average of all the, well, our particular workshop and it came out to 47.9. Well, that's more or less the average age group of this whole delegation, but we're a middle-aged group. And like in all society, the older generation fears or is suspicious of the newer ones coming in. But you've got to have this infusion of new blood. You've got to have this new wind blowing through. You've got to have this new thing of ideas; and that's why I have no fear of this school or no fear of these young men who are coming through this school.



Grosvenor

## Walter Grosvenor

### Workshop #3

I've had the pleasure to be here at Piney Point since 1967, in a different capacity each succeeding year, and have enjoyed each and every visit. On the humorous side, I recall being driven down here last summer from New York in the SIU limousine, and around midnight the driver says, "Here we are." I was dozing at the time and looking out the window, I saw this beautiful lake with graceful swans swimming about, some perched on a high-mounted lighted waterfall, a beautiful picture setting. I shook my head and said, "Driver you made the wrong turn-off, you're in the wrong place; there was no lake here last year. The driver turned around and replied, "Well, there's one here now!"



Gillain

## Lee Gillain

### Workshop #4

In our shop this morning we discussed the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship and the opportunities offered to young men who desire to become seamen. We discussed the vacation facilities of the school available to all SIU members and their families, also to our men on pension.

We in workshop #4 feel that this gives a man on pension with a limited amount of money an outstanding place for vacation. I would like to say that every phase of this school is the big chance for SIU seamen and future SIU seamen.

## Thurston Lewis

### Workshop #5

In workshop #5 this morning, we read and discussed information about the Piney Point Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship. However we spent most of the morning session taking the reading test. I would like to point out that Seafarers have long been aware of this need for self-help education both as job upgrading for more porkchops and scholastically for a fuller life and a more meaningful life in our society.

Back in 1949 and 1950 we had seamanship classes as well as union education classes aboard the Del Norte of Delta Lines. And we have had these classes on other ships. But we had never before seen a set-up like this at Piney Point nor did we even dream it possible. We must be ever alert to the possibilities here and use them.



Lewis

## Michael O'Toole

### Workshop #6

Today in workshop #6 we discussed the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship as a whole and all those different things they have going on down here. First, of course, they have the training program for entry ratings which is a wiper, steward department, and deck department. And the young men are taught how to be prepared when they go aboard ship and what's expected of them. Second is of course the educational conference we have here informing the membership of what the union is doing and what is going on in government pertaining to the union. Thirdly, there is a summer program where seamen can come down for vacation and all the different facilities are down here for them: sailing, horseback riding, softball, swimming, fishing, basketball, bowling, billiards, and table tennis, among other things.



O'Toole

## Jim Thomas

### Workshop #7

We had a very interesting and informative discussion on the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship. You know for me this school is really a dream come true. This is my first trip here to Piney Point and although I had heard many stories about the place, both good and bad, you really have to see it for yourself first hand to actually appreciate what has been accomplished here. And I can honestly say that our union and its members are definitely going to benefit as a result of this place.

In fact, we already have begun to get returns on our investment here. I have sailed with quite a few graduates of this school and, speaking as a professional seaman, I would definitely have to state that they were assets to the ship. I would like to commend the instructors here for the excellent job they are doing with these young men. They are turning out to be good seamen and good shipmates in addition to being good union men.



Thomas

## Lucien (Fred) Drew

### Workshop #8

I'm very happy to learn that a seaman's reading level is very much above the people of other walks of life; and that makes me feel mighty good. The School of Seamanship is great, I know from self-experience in sailing on the capacity of steward that the young people that are coming aboard ships now are 100 percent better in efficiency and ability than they were in five years previous to now. An observation I see here many times over, more than I ever imagined it to be. Young Americans being made good citizens, which is the most important factor of our country. And also, an excellent start as a seaman which is very important in the operation of a ship. We all know that.



Drew





# A Special Conclusion

As we conclude the two weeks of our SIU Educational Conference at the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship at Piney Point, Md., we, the elected delegates, feel that we have had a very valuable and worthwhile experience.

This conference gave each of us an opportunity to participate fully in thorough, unlimited discussions and question and answer periods on each of the key subjects in which we share a deep interest and common concern with our brother SIU members.

Out of the daily workshop and discussion period, the delegates made what we considered to be interesting observations, comments and recommendations in each of the areas under consideration. Every one of the participants became involved. And the interest we shared at the outset heightened throughout the conference.

We feel that this Educational Conference has been a marked success, and the fact that it was held at the Harry Lundeberg School at Piney Point helped to make it so. For we were able to conduct our conference, to examine and review the policies and programs of our union in what can truly be called a center of activities that has an important bearing on the welfare and well-being of SIU men and their families.

We were able to observe and to draw upon the facilities and resources of this SIU center to make our conference informative and productive.

The overwhelming, perhaps unanimous feeling of the delegates is that the educational conference is a union effort that will be of considerable effort to all Seafarers.

And so as we conclude our conference, we feel a recommendation is in order—a recommendation that the union hold another such educational conference to give other SIU members the opportunity to take part in, and develop points of view on, those matters which have so great an effect on their lives.

We recommend that the conference be called as soon as necessary arrangements will allow.

Further, we recommend that the delegates be drawn from that part of the membership which has not attended this educational conference or the crews' conferences held here late last year.

We are of the unqualified opinion that conferences of this sort can be most beneficial to the membership and to the union.



On the final day of the conference, delegates bowed their heads in a moment's silent and traditional tribute to our deceased brother Seafarers, and all sailors.



# Workshop Chairmen Sum It Up



Butts

**Bernell Butts**

*Workshop #1*

Today the discussions and conversations that were brought up at this meeting, were voted on, and acted on. We also held a discussion on shipboard behavior and our union meetings aboard the ships. A lot came out in this discussion that we had, and it seemed that we could do a lot ourselves aboard these ships as the committees and the delegates improve things. And we come to the conclusion that if we, more or less, police our own people, and dig out the rotten apples, that we could make conditions a lot better aboard ships, and it will assist patrolmen and and their duties.

Brother Paul hasn't mentioned it, but we have made a head start right aboard the Zimmerman here, 'cause this is the largest damn SIU crew I've ever been aboard ship with!

**Ray Knoles**

*Workshop #2*

This morning, we went through the history, Mr. Chairman, Brother Delegates: We went through the history of the union and law. Actually all the subjects we have covered. Then, we had a discussion on phony lawyers who chase ships. We had a discussion on attending and how to conduct a meeting. But I think all the workshops went through this.

I'd like to discuss something else. Brother Hall spoke yesterday about the West Coast. I come from the West Coast, and I know what it's like out on that West Coast. Now, in 1951 when they gave me my book, they give us a little pin, and I put that pin on my coat. I was proud of it for a period of maybe four or five years. Then, I took that pin off and I threw it in a drawer.

Brothers, listening to people that I know around here and what they have explained to me, I'm damn sure going to put that pin on when I get back to the West Coast.

**Henry Roberts**

*Workshop #5*

Today we summed up with a discussion on all that has gone on here.

We also went into the conduct of a ship's meeting which now are held each Sunday while at sea, which is just as important to us as shore-side meetings are. We went into shipboard behavior. As we all know, we should strive to be on our best behavior at all times so that it will not throw no reflection on us or the union, especially so to set an example for the young men who are coming to sea now, because he is watching you to observe just how a seaman should act. You should offer him and any other brother seaman help at all times, because that way you will have more harmony on the ship. And with harmony and helping each other, you will have a much stronger SIU.



Roberts

**Vincent Fitzgerald**

*Workshop #6*

The delegates from workshop #6 have reviewed the reports of this conference and are wholeheartedly in accord with the intent of these reports. We feel the reports properly and correctly reflect the action which has been taken and are pleased to recommend adoption of all these key topics, accept and concur on all. Also to give authority to the officers, to publish these reports in the *Log* and to submit them to the membership at regular meetings.

I wish to point out we had 100 percent attendance in our class. And the delegates voted to accept the report and recommendations unanimously, and urged adoption of the report and recommendations by this entire body.



Fitzgerald

**D. H. Abraham**

*Workshop #7*

Today my fellow delegates and I of workshop #7, under the fine supervision of Cal Tanner and Louis Neira, received the reports of the educational conference that have been submitted and are wholeheartedly in accord with the intent of these reports.

We feel the reports properly and correctly reflect the action which has been taken and are pleased to recommend adoption of these reports and also to give authority to the officers to publish their reports and to submit them to the membership at regular meetings.

Before I close, brothers, I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to have attended this school and also for the honor of being a delegate at this conference. I also want to give special thanks to Mr. Ken Conklin and Doug Corbitt, for all their time and help they gave me while I was attending this school.



Abraham

**Andy Anderson**

*Workshop #8*

Today our members acted on each of the position papers on each day from March 2 through March 11 and unanimously voted to accept each daily position as submitted and read. We also voted unanimously wholeheartedly to accept the conclusion for all the reports. And further, workshop #1 recommended to this body to unanimously accept all position reports as submitted.

We in workshop #8 wrote an essay on our stay and thoughts and recommendations on the HLSS in Piney Point. We also had a discussion on shipboard behavior and union meetings, which we went into very thoroughly. In closing, I would like to say that the members of this union, the officials, and the teachers should be very proud with what we have achieved with these trainees of the Lundeberg school here at Piney Point.



Anderson

**Louis Goodwin**

*Workshop #3*

We recognize the work accomplished since the beginning of the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship, but we also recognize the critical need not only to continue this work, but greatly expand it to meet the needs of the industry. Mr. Chairman, workshop #3 unanimously concurs with the reports and recommendations as submitted to our workshop this day.



Goodwin

**Tony Ferraro**

*Workshop #4*

We, in workshop #4, discussed the history of the SIU, legal, contracts, political, educational, pension, welfare, and education, constitution, and the HLSS. It was all voted upon and seconded that we accept and concur with the report.

There is just one thing that I would personally like to say and I would like to thank the NMU for making me be here. Back in 1943, they refused to take me into the union because I was just an ordinary seaman. Little did I know they were going to do me a favor, and this is it.

We accept and concur with the recommendations and everything that was going on down here.



Ferraro





# Seafarers Speak Out

*Here are comments from some of the delegates to the first Seafarers Educational Conference. They are virtually untouched by the editors. They express praise. They express criticism. They contain ideas for all Seafarers to think about. Most of all, these essays show how Seafarers speak—and think—for themselves.*

**D. Abraham**  
Houston

Having come through HLSS last year I had a rough idea of the workings of their school and the union.

After going through this conference I was really surprised and impressed about how much I learned while here.

If we could bring all members to one of these conferences we could have a well informed and more satisfied membership as was brought up at the assembly. I am going to carry on from here and try to inform my shipmates on what the union is all about and what it is trying to do and is doing for them.

I believe that if we didn't carry on from here a lot of members would still be in the dark and this conference would have been a waste.

**J. Allen**  
Seattle

The Seafarers Educational Conference of March 1st to the 14th, 1971, at Piney Point, Md., was a great step forward for the SIU to help the members to see what is going on in their union and to see into the future of the union.

I myself believe we need the HLSS for the young seafarers coming into the union. It will help them to prepare themselves for life aboard ship and give them a better chance for the education they did not get at home.

The facilities here are of the best and sports are plentiful. I myself say to the members to support it all the way.

**Robert L. Anderson**  
Wilmington

I have learned more about one union since I've been here, then in all the time I have been in our union. This is why I think these educational conferences are a great thing and should be continued.

Never had I understood the full fight we are engaged in, and how we are working to combat it.

Knowing all these things now I will work and promote others to work and support our goals.

Because if we all support our leadership in all ways we will have a strong union and win our battles.

We are extremely lucky in our leadership because they plan not only for today but also for many years ahead.

Also I have learned many of the answers to questions I have had doubts about and now I will be able to help many of our brothers who are misinformed about our union.

This conference will make our nation stronger as men who are informed will always work to support goals they understand.

**George E. Annis**  
New Orleans

In-so-far as the Harry Lundeberg School and the base here at Piney Point goes, in my personal opinion it is one of the finest acts that this union has undertaken, and that the educational aspects should be increased over the years.

I was rather reluctant to attend this educational conference because I had thought it would be just a waste of time. However, since my arrival here at Piney Point, I can only say that I am very happy that I was talked into coming, and that hereafter, I shall never turn down any other chance to visit or attend future conferences.

These few weeks have given me a greater insight

into the working of the various aspects of our union than I've ever had, and I will, upon my return to sea be able to answer questions asked me at future ship-board meetings much clearer and with fuller knowledge than I was able to do in the past.

I therefore personally believe that the union should try to hold these Educational Conferences with all of the top union officers attending at least once every two years, in order to clear up various matters as has been done at this meeting.

**Stephen T. Arales**  
Norfolk

In my 23 years in the SIU I'm proud to be one of the educational conference delegates. I learned about the wonderful turn-out of all young seamen of tomorrow. I learned more in these 12 days of our union history, contract and so forth than in my years at sea. Piney Point HLSS of SIU is the best school for all seamen.

**J. M. Ard**  
Wilmington

This conference to me has been beneficial in many ways. I think the most important aspect has been the facts about the union past, present, and future. We hear so much bull and false stories at sea.

We the members must, by all means, sow the information that we have reaped to the brothers at sea and in our various ports.

I have got a feeling of security at this meeting. In essence I know that the president of the union is working for us not only today but days ahead.

As for Piney Point itself, I have never seen so much courtesy and willingness to help as I have encountered here. This has got to be a milestone in maritime history. I am very proud to be part of it.



**D. Backovitz**  
Philadelphia

I was here at workshop 5. We went thru all the workshops and the trainees' mess hall and one of the bungalows, and I was impressed. I know if I had it to do over again, I would be here as a trainee.

The most important thing about our union are the people, president, and officers and most of our delegates. The next is our constitution, pension, welfare, and vacation benefits all the way down the line.

I would like to know if it is possible to put our film on television about the dirty conditions that a seaman had to put up with. I liked everything about our educational conference and I gained some knowledge.

**James W. Barnett**  
Mobile

I was reluctant to attend this SIU conference as I had a preconceived opinion that I was in for a "white-wash, lecture-sermon" session. I do not believe that I was alone in this opinion before we arrived at the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship at Piney Point, Md.

I believe that without exception all delegates have

benefited from this conference, naturally some more than others. It of course is not perfect, but it is a giant step in the right direction. If I may, a few suggestions:

Use Saturdays as workshop sessions also.

Allow a few periods of free time for questions and answer sessions for such delegates as would like to participate in same, especially on contracts and pension and welfare.

Have full time medical clinic hours.

**Elmer C. Barnhill**  
Houston

I think that Piney Point is the best school that I have ever seen. I wish that it was possible for me to have the same type of program when I was younger.

I brought my wife and kids here last Sept. We thought that it was a wonderful place to come to on a vacation.

Seamen who have not been here can not realize what a wonderful place this is or the things you can do here. I hope that they get a chance to see this place as I have seen it.

**Jack C. O'Steen**  
Jacksonville

This has been an outstanding conference in every phase covering all the way from the origination of the SIU and the HLSS down through this conference. The officials as a whole have done an outstanding job in the workshops. I know I now have a better understanding of our union and the HLS. Some of the recommendations I would make for more comfort are:

1. Additional water cooler in each wing of the motel.
2. TV's in each room or a TV Room in each wing so TV watchers can do so and not disturb the card players as has been the case at this conference. No one has been able to match any TV.
3. A shorter conference, say a period of ten days, with a break on Saturday and Sunday.

**Art Nelson**  
New York

I am extremely proud to be a member of an organization that is giving these young men a chance. Over a period of years the patrolman used to ask for a donation and I never questioned it. Now I see where it is. In the New York Hall I met men who said, "What is it with this Piney Point?" I only wish those members could get down here to see what it is. This conference has given me a new light and better understanding of my union.

**Vincent Pizzitolo**  
New Orleans

Piney Point is a well-planned achievement. It proves that when a man believes in something he will die fighting for it. Unselfishness and pride has been the SIU way of doing things. What has been done at Piney Point proves what America needs today is more Piney Point.

I am proud to be a member of the SIU.

I only hope that we continue to move on and keep building up. But to have these things, we must support SPAD. It does take money to move forward in any field.

Piney Point is on the map to stay. Let's keep it that way.



# 'The Closest-Knit in the World'

W. G. Barron  
New Orleans

Upon my arrival at Piney Point, little did I realize that this place was so beautiful and covered so large an area. There is everything here to help the new SIU member to advance himself. Everyone here has been so wonderful to us from the union officials on down to the waiters in the Anchor Room. I will never forget it.

This has been the greatest thing that has happened to me since I have been in the SIU. It not only has brought me closer to my brother members, but has brought me closer to my union officials. In my 12 years being in the union I have never met President Paul Hall. Had heard many good things about him and some bad, but am sure if the few who criticize him could meet him face to face, hear him talk and see how hard he is fighting for US and our union they would have nothing but praise for him.

When I sat out in the Zimmerman auditorium on March 1 and listened to him talk for 10 minutes, I made up my mind about him that there is a man that knows what he is talking about and he is all union and I am glad he is fighting on my side instead of against me. He is not only looking out for us today but is planning for us in the years to come. I am glad to have him for my president in this educational conference.

I learned more about our union in the first two days here than I did the whole 12 years I have been in the union. I was glad to hear our president say that these conferences would continue. I hope in the future that every SIU member can get to come here to Piney Point and learn about the SIU history, the union and the law, the contracts, the education and political action of the union, pension, welfare and vacation benefits, educational and vocational programs, the constitution and all about the HLSS.

It is very educational and helpful to everyone to come here and learn more about our union, about the expansion program, the farm and many other things our union is doing for its membership.

It is my prediction at the end of these conferences that this will be the closest-knit union in the whole world and when we all learn to pull together we will be hard to break. Again I want to thank my patrolman for asking me to come here.

## SEAFARERS\*LOG



Charles F. Nysla  
San Francisco

Legal aids and means are needed in our fight today. These needs must be realized by the membership. Our contract is a legal document upholding the rights and freedom of the membership.

Politically we must be educated because of the complications of today's modern life.

Our union welfare and vacation contract is considered the best in the industry. The school is considered one of the best that labor has. Labor needs schools for an induction into this modern complicated life we have today.

Our constitution insures our freedom with all its rights.

The Harry Lundeberg School is one of the finest the maritime industry has, George Meany said.

It has a wonderful meaning for young men entering the SIU to train for life at work.

We had an instructive period of school in labor's advancement toward a better life. In the class on

labor union history, we learned the stirring story of how American labor is a part of the U.S. history. Significant events in the history of the advancement of labor were related to the strike for a 10-hour day by the carpenters of Pennsylvania in 1822.

Then came the formation of the Mechanics Union of Trade Associations of Philadelphia. It created unity among the unions of Philadelphia. Never again did the striking union stand alone in the city of Philadelphia.

We know today that unity not only works in the city among unions but is needed internationally for advancement toward a better life.



Phillip W. Pron  
New York

I am happy to be a member of SIU and a delegate to the educational conference. I have learned a lot about the history of labor and our leaders. What a fine job they have done to keep the SIU on top of the world. I find Piney Point and the facilities for a new young member the best anyone could want.

I enjoyed the two weeks here meeting my old shipmates and friends. I also enjoyed the meetings. This kind of conference should be done every year for everyone in our union.

Eugene W. Bent  
San Francisco

I think the purpose of this conference is very good. I would suggest, however, that any future conferences be shortened to ten days. I doubt if anyone would object to continuing through Saturday and Sunday. We certainly can't cover in detail any of these subjects but we have been supplied in our kits the means to delve into these subjects further. I think the most important thing is that we take our kits aboard our next ship to share with the other members who weren't able to attend this conference.

C. Behrens  
Houston

I am one of the delegates that came up from Houston, Tex. I enjoyed and learned a lot since I've been at Piney Point. Before I came here I thought I know a little bit about my union, but I was fooled. I didn't know. Nothing. I think that it should be a must for every member of the union to come to one of the educational conferences and receive a little more education about their union.

As for Piney Point, it is a fine place for a vacation and also it is a fine place for our future seamen. Since I've been here I have walked around and went to some of the classrooms and workshops. I think they are the best. We didn't have them when I went to school. If we did, maybe I would have stayed in school.

I hope to come back to Piney Point for a few weeks in the summer, and I am looking forward to it.

Herbert W. Bennett  
Norfolk

The educational conference was just that. I learned quite a bit about the union and its workings, I also learned quite a bit about the school and the Piney Point facilities.

I only hope that I will be able to present this information to the ship's crews so it will be clear to them.

My biggest criticism is the wasted weekend and the very uncomfortable seats, both in workshops and the auditorium.

Don Bartlett  
San Francisco

My name is Don Bartlett and I am from San Francisco. I am the chief bosun of Sea Land shore gang in

Oakland. I am very glad and proud that I was able to come to Piney Point to attend this conference.

As my job in chief bosun, I have been aboard every ship. Now this will give me a chance to talk to the crews about the good work that is being done here at Piney Point. It also will give me the opportunity to explain to them about SPAD so that they will have a better knowledge of how and where we use it.

I think everybody in the union should have a chance to come to Piney Point. I sure learned a lot since I have been here. Piney Point is a great place both for the young seamen that are coming up and the old timers that were already here.

I want to take this time to thank Paul Hall and all of the others for making our stay at Piney Point a nice one.

Thomas E. Kelly  
Philadelphia

Being one of the first graduating classes to go through Piney Point (Jan., 1968), I can't begin to write and express my appreciation, and gratitude, for all that the SIU has done for me without writing a book. When I first arrived in Piney Point back in December of 1967, my first impression of the school was, to say the least, bad. I felt that I was little more than an underpaid coolie. I didn't possess the foresight that our union officials seem to be naturally gifted with. I never thought, back in 1967, that this school could ever be what it is today.

I've been most impressed by the GED program which the school is operating. The teachers in the school, from my observations, make the students more willing to learn by their relaxed attitudes, and by making their classrooms more like a home than a school room.

I have also been very impressed by the vocational school ship "Sonny Simmons." I have attended classes aboard her over the last few weeks, and I must say I was impressed with the amount of work the trainees cover in the short two-week period in the engine and deck classes. I've also attended class in Bungalow 4 and in my opinion the training that these young 3rd cooks receive has to be at least equal if not better than any cooking course offered in the nation.

## SEAFARERS\*LOG



In conclusion, I would like to say that in my opinion no other union offers better schooling to their membership for the opportunity to advance themselves than the Seafarers International Union.

J. P. Bush  
Mobile

The Harry Lundeberg School is a beautiful place. It is a place for all youngsters to come, to learn, and make a better life.

And to go to such a place is beautiful and makes a man want to do for himself. I learned a lot about the SIU and other things.

It is a wonderful place to get everything out of the union and everything is very good.

If a man missed this school, this place, he doesn't know what it is all about. It is an amazing place to come to. With all the classrooms is very nice and all of teachers are the same. That is good.



# 'An Application for My Grandson'

Charles O. Lee

Tampa

On my second visit to Piney Point, I find a lot of new improvements in just a few short months!

It is amazing to see anyone answer questions as Brother Hall does and has during this conference. With this kind of leadership, we can't lose.

Of course we all miss Brother Matthews and hope him a speedy recovery.

Having been a seaman since 1930 and a member of the SIU since 1938, I don't feel I am very good at explaining things on paper so the best way I can say what I think is by action.

My own son became a full book man in 1950, my stepson became a full book man in 1958 and I am applying for an application for my grandson to enter this training program. Need I say more?

F. J. Lebda

New York

I think that this educational conference has been a very good one. To the instructors and the union officials who have made this conference a good one, a vote of thanks for allowing me to participate.

I also have a better conception of this installation and the training programs that they have here are very good.

As for myself, if I were a young man again, I mean if I were able to get an education such as these young men get, I would certainly try my best to come to Piney Point.

I would also like to say that I know of a young man that would like to get a good education and become a good citizen, but he is only fourteen years of age.

When I get back home I will definitely show the pictures of the Harry Lundeberg School of Seaman-ship to any and all of my friends who may have a boy from the age of sixteen to twenty-one.

In closing this essay, I say again, thanks for the opportunity. I would like to come again either by myself or with my family.

I have no suggestions to make because any sugges-tions I make would already be covered by this school at Piney Point. Thanks to all the instructors, teachers and workshop chairmen, and a special thanks to Paul Hall, our president of the SIU.

## SEAFARERS\*LOG



much much broader view of things and learning to understand the facts of life and the living of it.

I know that this man Paul Hall has such foresight that is unbelievable. To go on his straight line and not to waiver no matter what, was and is the right way.

Thank God. This I say and believe me, I say from my heart, one of the things I would like to see become a working habit on board ships, is for the delegates, on receiving the new crew members' shipping cards to write the person's Social Security number on that card.

Elmer E. Lamb

San Francisco

I like every aspect of this school.

It has been very informative. Also, seeing is believ-ing.

The staff makes you feel at home, not just for one day but for your entire stay.

In these pleasant surroundings information sinks in and is absorbed by the delegate.

We have able leaders to impart this information.

Some of the points about all welfare being paid at key ports will be acted upon soon and hope so, as a matter of good faith.

B. Kazmierski

Houston

Piney Point: What does that mean to me? Before coming here it was nothing but a name I heard men-tioned by a few men.

Having spent two wonderful weeks here, the two words mean more to me now.

Piney Point is the start in the right direction for many men who want to go to sea. But it is much more to me as I feel I am one of the people who helped to make Piney Point a success.

To be present here at this time and to be able to participate, in this educational conference, is a high point in my life and we have met and talked over problems that seem to come up in every conversation aboard ship.

I have learned to be a better union man as I have been explained many parts of the contract I did not understand, also the legal and political side of the union.

## SEAFARERS\*LOG



I highly recommend this course as is for other members of the union. An educated union man will come forth from this conference.

I would only change one part and that would be to give the men a chance after assembly to confer upon the subject of that day with union officials. Do not make this mandatory but on a basis of free choice of the delegate.



James Dawson

Seattle

When I first heard our port agent in the port of Seattle asking for about 10 men to go to Piney Point Educational Conference, I along with the rest was very skeptical. Anyway, upon driving into Piney Point, seeing the buildings and the rest of surround-ings and what was done, our skepticism turned to outright amazement.

I personally think this is just what the Seafarers needed, a chance to learn more about the labor move-ment and its history. Also what is being done in our behalf, and most of all, to meet with most of the officials from the outlying ports. Talking to some of the officials, I really feel that they are trying to do what is right for the members. So all in all I think that the educational conference was a big success.

W. Koflowitch

New York

I have been a member of the SIU since 1952. I have seen my union suffer and expand. I have also visited many foreign countries, but I must say that being here at Piney Point, to me, is like finding my place in the sun.

I have visited every area on this base and also the farm. I hope to be one of the first lucky members to come back to Piney Point to live with my kind of people in peace and quiet.

What I have seen here and the participation by all the delegates makes me feel as a special envoy of a very bright future for my union and the maritime industry. I would consider it an honor to be elected as a delegate to any future conferences here at Piney Point.

Edward J. Toner

Philadelphia

I have heard my shipmates talk of Piney Point. I always accepted it as a sea story. Seeing is believing, so here I am in person, at Piney Point to see for myself.

Our arrival here at the Point sure was a great surprise. The reception was a thrill to see. Our top boys, Bill Hall and Brother Frank Mongelli welcomed us. Checking in the motel, one of the best I ever saw. We all enjoyed the hospitality. I must say the food was the best. A real banquet and a dining room worth seeing, first class.

This world is full of surprises. The activity I experi-enced sure will stay in my memories for a long time to come. This school of Harry Lundeberg, I am sure it will be a successful accomplishment for our SIU brothers to be proud of, second to none. I am most grateful to my SIU Brothers John Fay and Joe Air for electing me to come down here. It's a trip I will not soon forget. It is a full education in itself.

I am sure our young brothers here at the Harry Lundeberg school will turn out to be the best sailors to sweep the seven seas for the USA and the SIU.

Piney Point to me is the happy hunting ground for it is a place I shall never forget. May our success continue.

Thanks to Mr. Paul Hall and brother SIU mem-bers.



William King

San Francisco

One thing I learned at this Seafarers Educational Conference is that it takes a lot more than hot air to keep our job security and all the benefits we have. It takes brains, hard work, and foresight.

The Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship is one instrument of foresight and that education is of great importance. We must support our officials and give them our confidence by supporting them with SPAD and all other means to the limit of our ability. We never had it so good.

I know because I started going to sea 52 years ago. I am in the engineering department. I have been on ships from the coal shovel to today's push button. I only had 2 years of school. I cannot write in words all the good things I, as a member of this union, have received. We have the best officials and the most loyal of any maritime union. We owe them our full support with everything we have in anything they do. Because I, for one, know they're trying to do their best.

Robert Lasso

San Juan

I feel as I think most of the members feel, that this program was and is a most needed, awakening and understanding of what's going on and how it's going on an how it will always go on. As I grow older, I am, I think, lucky, to understand that I am getting a



# 'Where Would I Have Been?'



**D. Barry**  
San Francisco

I am one of many who were reluctant to come to Piney Point. If Frank Drozak had a full complement to come, perhaps I would never have come, but as I have great respect for Brother Drozak I could not and would not see him come here without a full complement from his port of San Francisco. That is the only reason that I came.

I could go on and say as many do that I dreamed of coming here but it would be a lie and phony . . . and no one would have believed me as I am well known for stating the facts and have no use for phonies.

Now that I did come and have seen and heard I am indeed very pleased and will—if I live long enough come back to see the completion of this wonderful school and farm.

I have had many kids from this school sail under me and have never had a problem with one of them. And as these kids now are trained better I expect to have no problems with them. I have always tried to help kids as I remember I was helped and also try to gain their respect. This is the first phase in helping them.

I bow to our President and our officials for the great job that they have done here, also to all of those who have helped and worked here. May God let them have the health and strength to finish this and go on helping these kids and I hope that someday that each one of them will look back and say, "Where would I have been if it were not for Piney Point?"

**J. S. Preshong**  
Boston

We have come a long way since the start of this union. I think the HLSS is a good thing. No one would think this could be done in so short a time. The union beef has been a long one. First we had to get the men and ships, it wasn't easy, a fight all the way. Then it was a fight to get contracts with the companies which again was a fight in itself. But we won, and now we have the best contract of any union.

**Billy K. Nuckols**  
New York

The conference was called an Educational Conference and that to me is exactly what it was. After more than 20 years in this union I thought I knew something about it. Here at Piney Point I found out that what I knew was very little.

In nine classes in our workshop we studied nine different subjects as well as we could in the short time (3 hours) as possible. In each class I for one learned plenty.

Also in our 2-hour assembly, with the questions from our members and the answers from our president and chairman, I increased my knowledge of our union.

## SEAFARERS\*LOG



I for one think we should continue these conferences and that every member should have a chance to attend.

**James A. Bergeria**  
Philadelphia

A vote of thanks to all chairmen and all delegates here in Piney Point. I'm very happy everything ran smoothly. A job well done.

I studied all about Seafarers International Union, its history, pension, welfare and vacation plan, contract, constitution, political education program, Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship and union meetings and shipboard behavior.

**Alfred Bertrand**  
San Francisco

I, Alfred Bertrand, came to this conference from the port of San Francisco and here in this conference I have learned a lot. Brothers, after I leave this nice place we call Piney Point, I will really feel like an SIU member and speaking for myself now I know my union rules and would like to learn more. It is never too late to learn.

Brothers, now that our union is coming up, let's keep it up. We have better benefits, better facilities, a better constitution, all the way around—a better industry.

Remember, brothers, we made this union and thank God we have very good leaders and a very good president, which is Paul Hall.

## SEAFARERS\*LOG



**Thomas Brennan**  
Philadelphia

Two weeks ago I came to Piney Point for an educational conference with my union brothers from every port in the country. Through the discussions, and classes and questions and answer periods, I learned first hand of the problems we are going to face in the future. By discussion these problems, we learned how we are going to solve them. What we need to solve them.

I for one learned that unlike other maritime unions, we have leadership that has the gift of foresightedness. The proof of this is in the chaotic situation the other unions are in. I say this is a fantastic gift our leaders have . . . this gift of foresightedness and coolheadedness that has kept us out in front of all the rest.

Witness how they were able to look ahead into the future and see a place like Piney Point—where union men can come together for their first training, free from government interference; where they could come together to discuss their common problems; where they could come with their families for a vacation that is within their means; where they could live together in their own town and live close to their first love—the sea.

All this took what I call foresightedness.

I can come away from this conference with the feeling of satisfaction that now I more clearly understand the problems facing us. I also know the why's and wherefore's of some things I didn't understand and I also have the feeling that I can pass this information to my less knowledgeable brothers who were not able to attend this conference.

## SEAFARERS\*LOG



**Wm. Royes**  
New York

To all SIU members, I strongly recommend that if you have the opportunity to attend these conferences you do so. I've learned more about my union in these two weeks than I knew in the last 24 years.

Besides, the whole complex here in Piney Point is simply amazing. I never dreamed such a thing existed.

Every phase of the Labor Movement is discussed in the various workshops and when a man leaves here he is fully informed about his union and is capable of telling his shipmates about what is going on.

Besides, no better food and accommodations can possibly be found on the outside. The finest personnel is on hand to take care of all our wants.

To conclude I want to say this, in the last 24 years I've known only peace of mind, security, and freedom from job worry. All I've ever had, all I ever hope to have, I know will come through my union. Some years ago I heard or read these lines, Brothers, as we have in the past, as we are doing now, as we must continue to do in the future, we must hang together or sure as hell we will hang separately.

To our president, to our officers, to my brothers, God bless you all.

**H. B. Butts**  
Houston

A brief report on my stay at Piney Point. First off, I would like to say I am proud to have been a part of this educational conference. And I would like to give President Paul Hall a vote of thanks for making it possible.

Brothers, I believe all the SIU members that attended this conference will go home the best informed union members anywhere in the world.

The thing that impressed the men in the conferences was the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship. And the young men that are going through the school are the SIU men of tomorrow.



**Benedict Varela**  
New York

Unity seems to be the key word of all our SIU Conferences, of which there have been only two; personally I feel each and every member that holds an "A" Book or "B" book should go through; and enhance his own understanding of the leadership and brotherhood of our now becoming, for the first time, great union.

There should, in my mind, be a continuous succession of conferences until all our men have gone through this program. I am more than positive that this can only foster complete confidence in the leadership we now have; especially in the insecure and lean times the brotherhood must face.

As for suggestions? My leadership—I can see—is way ahead of my thoughts . . . I give you my vote of confidence . . . Paul Hall!



# 'If I Had Any Criticism ...'

**Ray Knoles**

*Wilmington*

Well, first, the best part was meeting many old shipmates.

As far as knowledge goes, learning what I had thought was a waste of money for something called Piney Point, is very good investment.

Also learning what SPAD is, which I thought was just another way to grab our money. Now I know different.

If there is, and there will be more conferences, I would limit them to a 100 or 150 men. So as to have no more than two men in a room. If I had any criticism of this conference that would be the three men in a room, and that is really a small thing.

**Robert M. Kirkwood**

*Philadelphia*

I am deeply impressed.

Thinking about union activities I knew about, how wrong I was in my thinking.

The area, the equipment used, are second to none. Sailing the ships with students coming out of Piney Point instead of off the street, you can pick out the Piney Point men just by the way they co-operate.

**Hubert W. Kennedy**

*Houston*

I was surprised to see how the school was set up and the excellent way they train the boys here to be better shipmates than the ones coming off the street.

The various ships in which classes are held are very well laid out. I would like to further suggest that we should have the conferences twice a year.

I would like further to see us make aerial photos of our installation here in Piney Point and placed in all of our union halls.

The Steward Department set-up is excellent. The dining room and bar is excellent. This is an ideal place for members and their families to come for vacation.

I would like to further donate to our Farm, once you start stocking it with livestock, registered sows from my farm in Coldsprings, Tex.

**W. E. Joyner**

*Houston*

It has been a surprise to me, after hearing so many stories about this school, to find after I came here to see and to find that nearly all of the stories were wrong.

To me this is a wonderful school and a fine place for the young men of our union to learn some of the things that they would need aboard ship. They can only learn this from a sailor or a teacher that has been to sea.

The training that these men learn will be put to good use and make it much easier for old timers who used to teach these people the ways of the sea. So, to me, I think that this school was and is a wonderful thing for all the young and the old.

**Herwood B. Walters**

*San Francisco*

With all due respect to the president and the elected body of our union, I joined the SIU in 1966 in the port of New York and have been an active member since. During these five years I've upgraded myself to an Able Bodied Seaman, with the help of the SIU upgrading program.

My instructor, who I will never forget, was Ernie B. Jackson, who at present is an officer which I am very proud of. In paying almost but for \$250.00 of my back assessment, I received my "B" book in 1968 when I returned off a one year run in the Persian Gulf, I was very happy to get to do this because as a "C" it was very hard to get a job, so, thanks to the SIU.

In 1968 on my return from the Persian Gulf, I was informed about the property that the union had acquired. After listening to a lot of other brothers, it seemed like the money was thrown away, but today I can say with all respect that I am proud to see what

the outcome is. Also, I can see that the youngsters are well cared for, under good supervision of some of our elected officers.

In coming to the conclusion of believing and clearing my curiosity that the money is well spent, and I am privileged to say this for the five years that I have been a member of this union, I was ignorant of a lot of things until now. The past 12 days were an education.

Thanks to the SIU for all the help that was rendered to me. I remain a brother.

**Gary Jarvis**

*Houston*

This has been a most informative conference to me. I was here last year for crew conference No. 3. I learned much then, and have learned much more, about my union and the labor movement, at this educational conference.

I learned how the American seaman has progressed from slave-labor-type condition to his position now, an equal member of society.

I was told of some of the bloody strikes and beefs the SIU has been involved in.

Another thing I liked about this conference is that in our workshops I got the opportunity to meet and talk with almost every port agent in our union, thus getting the views of each port on a lot of different aspects of the union and its policies.

I know now, even more than before, how very important SPAD is.

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**John J. Devine**

*New York*

I am a pensioner and would like to thank the officials and brother delegates for inviting me to Piney Point to attend this Seafarers Educational Conference. I am very proud to say that I have learned about our young brothers attending the HLSS. I attended a couple of their classes and was really impressed. The new course to assist bad reading is really a big benefit to these young boys. There is so much more I could say about HLSS but to tell the truth I am lost for words. Thank you all for the most enlightening two weeks I have ever spent.

**E. Joseph**

*New York*

The educational conference held in Piney Point was both educational and informative. It was also good from the point of meeting old timers whom we had not seen in years and whom we probably would not have seen or met had it not been for the conference.

The President, Paul Hall, gave us a lot of information with regard to the progress of the union and also with regard to the dangers the union faces from the federal government. Also, the trouble we are having with our West Coast officials, which we didn't know about.

Therefore, in conclusion, taking into consideration the wonderful treatment and information we received in Piney Point, I suggest that it becomes union policy that all union members of the SIU Gulf, Atlantic and Inland Waters, should be compelled to make at least one visit to Piney Point.



**H. B. Thomas**

*Baltimore*

To start I'd like to say that anyone who hasn't been to Piney Point by all means do so as it is an experience you will never forget. Especially those members who came in with the union and shared its problems and hardships as our very able president brought out in our assembly each day and our very competent instructors brought out in our respective workshops.

I've learned a lot here and I'm sure anyone else coming here will do the same. The training school for boys starting is wonderful. The training for their respective ratings, discipline and whatever schooling he cares to take. The plans for the farm are something that have to be seen as well as read about to fully understand how far this union has come.

If possible, I'm coming back for another session later in the year. That's how much I think of the program.

**E. Johnston**

*San Francisco*

The conference of March 1-14, 1971, was convened for a general review of all phases of the union, convened under the chairmanship of President Paul Hall. Each day was given over to a different factor of our union so that we could gain a working knowledge of the organization.

Obviously the two-week period allocated to the study of the various facts that make up the organization was inadequate to go into it in any depth. We only learned enough to speed us on to know more.

Since an informed membership is a strong membership, then we who have been chosen to be here at this conference have an obligation, and a duty, to pass on to those who were unable to attend what we have learned and benefited from the seminar.

It must, at times, be frustrating to those men, whom we elect to represent us, to battle for our rights at contract time, to take up grievances on our behalf without regard for time and effort, beefs that must be gone into to protect the rights of the members, to have some of our brothers say, "That's what he is paid for."

It is a great tribute, indeed, to us seamen when such men as Andrew Furuseth, Harry Lundeberg and Paul Hall are willing, and have been willing in the past, to put their freedom and yes, their lives, on the line in order that we may have even a decent wage and also to work in dignity in a profession that once classed seamen as the lowest scum.

We can never repay these men for their unselfishness and dedication to, at times, a very thankless task.

We have been fortunate in the high calibre and integrity of our elected officials as evidenced by the strong union we have today.

Their concern not only for our future but the future of seamen to come, is graphically illustrated in the school and the farm here.

**J. W. Thomas**

*New Orleans*

As far as I can see, everything is pretty well covered in all nine supplements. I'm pretty well up on our (the SIU) past history. And my main concern is our future.

It's a known fact that a good left hook with your fist is no good anymore or even a club for that matter. So we are going to have to use brains. And to get the brain, it will take a lot of money, meaning SPAD, and I can't see how any government or their agencies say that any body of men (mainly union) can't donate money where it will help us for a better living in our country, the USA.

It seems to me, not to be able to do so would be un-American, and definitely unconstitutional, and if it takes something like SPAD to make it legal, then put me in jail, because I'm going all the way with it (SPAD).



# 'This School—One of the Best'

## SEAFARERS\*LOG



**H. Wilson**  
New York

I would like to congratulate all the staff of Piney Point on their untiring efforts to make this school one of the best in the country. I would like to thank them for making my stay very enjoyable.

**A. Pete Waters**  
Seattle

I have learned more in this past 10 days of classes about my union and my rights as a member and what Piney Point means to my future in the SIU. I cannot imagine the planning and the work of officials and trainees alike it has taken to make this place of education and beauty a dream come true.

I am sure after seeing this, that the seaman's housing community is only a matter of time and it too will be a fact. I cannot express my sincere gratitude, to those who made this all possible, and for my being here.

After seeing the films on our union growth, and what our forefathers did to make the condition we enjoy today, I sometimes feel unworthy of these privileges, but I will always, in the future, do as I have done in the past—no matter what it requires from me—to do my best for my union and my brother shipmates and my future shipmates from Piney Point, from the time they first come aboard till I have left this great union, and family.

I only wish there weren't a very few who try to destroy and embarrass our great leaders and brother Seafarers. I would like to think of myself, and I hope all the others who came to this conference, as a disciple who will go out and spread the truth to our brothers who do not know.

So may God bless and go with our leaders and guide and direct them in the ways to the best for our SIU.

**Raybor Threatt**  
Texas

This has been a most informational conference to me. I learned much about my union and the labor movement at this educational conference. I learned how seamen won their freedom, how they were slaves long after Lincoln freed the black man.

I learned how the money we donated to the union was being spent, how important it is to continue donating to the union. It is a weapon to fight with. The money is used in the same way as a club would be used on the docks.

I learned how our officials put themselves on the line to protect our jobs. How Maritime Defense League was so important to all of us. Without these donations some of us would lose our freedom. I learned how our union intends to continue fighting with this donation.

**Carlos Canales**  
Wilmington

It has occurred to me that studying the past has shown me what I believe to be the present and probably the future for labor.

It is the same old story, discredit the union and the officials, raise dissension between rank and file. If

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that doesn't work then: Raise the cost of living, prevent the unions from collective bargaining, seeking political legislation in favor of increasing American industry. Then selling out American initiative for larger and larger profits.

Then by not using American labor to the best of its ability.

We are losing a precious commodity.

As we have seen here, brothers, this foresight on the part of our leaders will, regardless of the runaway trade effort by big business and our government, have maximum effect.

As long as we back our union in its long-range plan of unity and the Merchant Marine Act of 1970 and the education effort, we can win.

And in addition, we must try to understand as much as we can of our union's political activities, which is at this time, COPE and SPAD.



**John Sherpinski**  
Jacksonville

I think Piney Point is the best thing going, because we have everything we need to educate them, train them and to get them ready for sea. As for the conference, I enjoyed it very much. It was very informative, and very educational. I think the farm is a very good project, and I hope to see it in the next two years. I think the conference went very smoothly and the teachers were very helpful.

Thank you very much for allowing me to come to Piney Point, Md.

**F. Sellman**  
Houston

My heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to spend the past two weeks here at this truly unique facility. It has made me even more proud to be a member of the SIU and to have been able to participate in the building of the HLSS. I have talked with

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many of the trainees during my stay and honestly believe these young men to be the future of not only our union, but the U.S. maritime industry. They receive a far better working knowledge of the history and structure of our union than most of the "old-timers" have now.

The educational conference was a real opportunity for those of us who are professional seamen to learn the complete history of our union and to better understand why our leadership, in the past, took the stand they did, even in defiance of the wishes of a good part of the rank and file.

Only after the workshops of the past two weeks were we able to see that every stand taken by the leadership was a "part of the whole" to give us, "the rank and file," a more sound and solid union at a time when others in the industry are going down the drain.

Thank God for Paul Hall and his sound judgment and foresight. I, for one, will be far less likely to voice opposition to his recommendations in the future. If every member present at this conference received the same message I did, our union will be far stronger in the future.

Thank you for being such a gracious host and for the fine accommodations and wonderful cuisine and for showing us what the HLSS has become.

**Julian R. Duke Wilson**  
Norfolk

I can not say enough, in such a short essay, of my feeling about my stay here at the HLSS at Piney Point, Md.

We all should back this school and what we have learned at this Seafarers Educational Conference to the hilt.

Speaking for myself, I have learned a great deal these last two weeks and I think we should have more of these conferences in the future so all of our brothers will get a chance to come up here. We at this conference should carry all that we have learned back to our brothers and then they will be just like us, "Education" on "Facts," instead of hearsay.

**Frank Conforto**  
New Orleans

My visit to the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship has been most rewarding to me in several respects. I have learned a lot about my union and its constant fight, both on the picket lines and the never ending political front of Washington, D.C. With the fine leadership that the SIU has had in the past and up to the present time, the SIU will continue to strive for a better way of life for all SIU members.

I have enjoyed my stay here and I have nothing but praise and admiration for the way everything here is functioning, the food, service, living quarters. And all the teachers and instructors are doing a wonderful job training the youngsters, who are the future Seafarers of tomorrow.

During my stay here I have met many of my old shipmates and brother members whom I haven't seen in a number of years. When I leave here and go back to the union hall and aboard ship I will convey my feelings and thoughts and everything I have learned while attending the educational conference to the membership both ashore and aboard ship.

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# 'I Was Very Impressed and Surprised'

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**J. J. Reeves**  
Jacksonville

Since visiting Piney Point, I've come to realize that about 85 percent of what I had heard about the SIU and Harry Lundberg School of Seamanship was wrong. By attending the SIU Educational Conference, the tours around the installation and the training school, I have come to be very proud of being part of the SIU.

I have come to realize many facts about our union which I had not known before coming to Piney Point, and of the many problems that face our union and the shipping industry today.

On the training program for the new men, I was very impressed and surprised that we have such modern equipment and skilled instructors.

**Angel Rodriguez**  
San Juan

I, Angel Rodriguez, am a witness to all the activities of this grand school, which for many years we wished to have and in the name of all the dark Puerto Ricans, hope for a saint of a president such as Paul Hall.

That his path may be lighted wherever he goes, in the city, and in our lives.

We wish him much prosperity, and to all the dark Puerto Ricans, the same.

**Sam S. Brown**  
Jacksonville

Before attending this conference, I was in some doubt about our union, contract, constitution, and SPAD. After discussing one at a time, in our workshop, we are able to understand more of all functions of our union. Also the fight our officials have in carrying out their duty's for our job security and benefits.

A vote of thanks for all involved in making this conference a success.

**R. Wood**  
San Francisco

This past two weeks has enlightened me very much on the things that have been accomplished by the HLSS and the educational opportunities offered the SIU members at Piney Point.

I am especially impressed by the GED program and would personally encourage anyone not having a high school diploma to take advantage of this golden opportunity.

I would compare Piney Point in some sense with the early pioneers who made the long hard journey westward. I think it could be summed up by a quotation from Brigham Young when he looked out on Utah Valley from the Wasatch Mountains and said, "This is the place."

**John Coleman**  
Mobile

I would like to say that I have enjoyed my stay at Piney Point during the Seafarers Educational Conference. I have learned more about my union and its membership and the planning for the future and what it will be like. I also would like to say that while attending the classes everyday I learned what the purpose of the conference was.

Everyday there was a different subject discussed about our union such as the labor union history. I know more about SPAD and its purpose. I wish to say that the farm is a wonderful site and that in the future it will be a town for pensioners and SIU members and their families. They will have homes available for Seafarers who wish to live there. My stay here has brought me closer to the union than I was before.

We all discussed the contract and what conditions the crew would be in without a good contract. I learned about the welfare plan and vacation benefits for members. Piney Point is a wonderful place for the Seafarers to bring his family for a nice summer vacation and the room and board is very low. The school is doing the greatest thing in maritime by training these young guys to become successful seamen and make a good career out of it. So ending my essay I would like to say that I have really enjoyed the whole fourteen-day stay.

**E. Robinson**  
New York

Truly a trip down memory lane. Having started to go to sea in 1927, I shipped out from the old Fink hall on Commercial and Battery in San Francisco when steam schooner A.B.'s with a book got \$40 a month, and at various times from the U.S.S.B. in New York, Baltimore, New Orleans, I have seen so many U.S. companies go out of business. I have shipped with the SIU from Stone Street to Beaver Street to Fourth Ave.

It was a wonderful experience seeing the SIU movie from its birth to the present. Truly a lot of memories there, such as the Commie beef when Paul was up the lamppost at Beaver Street, leading the army the way every good general would.

Being at Piney Point for the first time, a place that you have to see to believe, hearing of plans for tomorrow, of homes to be built and other improvements. In conclusion, we would have to say old Seafarers never die, they will just fade away to Piney Point.

**Frank Pasaluk**  
Philadelphia

### Keep Your Union Color's Flying High

What I received from this Conference at the HLSS in Piney Point, Md., is what I have learned, and also what I have seen. I have learned the facts of our union, facts of it I didn't know before, but I do now.

Here we have four our young members 12 weeks of educational program from seamanship, reading, writing, and the many skills that a seaman will use. This is their chance, give it to them.

This HLSS training center is the best investment our union has ever made. I don't mean in dollars, but in a place where fellow seafarers to come to learn and enjoy themselves.

The payoff is the future for them, their families, you, your union. Also the labor movement as a whole. Keep up the good work.

P.S.—Don't rap it, see it first. See what's being done. It's your place and union. You are part of it.

**Bob Zumkley**  
New York

This is my third trip and things get better each time around. I don't know how to express my feelings about this school except that everything is good and getting better every time I come here.

I can't say too much for the boys maintaining this school and I love all the girls. I can't mention any names as I might be accused of thinking I'm young again.

You will see more of me, I hope, and I'll do anything to assist in this program in my own feeble way. Thanks for everything.



**J. Winfield**  
Baltimore

I was born on a farm. Without farming, there was nothing to do except be a caddy boy. And a caddy boy I was until almost the time I went to sea. I learned to hate the farm. I learned to hate the farmer. I have had many dreams of being rich in my life, waking up in the morning without even a cup of coffee. But, like a dream, as I saw reality here one morning, a place where I could come from sea to a home on the farm, waking up in the morning, playing a round of golf with a caddy boy or carrying my own. Mr. Mongelli and Mr. Bill Hall explained and showed us the plan to the Piney Point farm that we will have some day soon. To tell the truth is easy but to live up to it is the problem. I will never hate the farm or the farmers again.

**Henry W. Roberts**  
Mobile

I was reluctant to come to the conference at Piney Point, now I'm glad I did. To see the place as it is now, and listening to how it was, it is almost like seeing a miracle at work. The conference within itself was most informative.

I've been a member of the SIU since March, 1944 and all I knew about the union was what I was told by someone who was not in an official capacity. Now that I have attended this conference there is nothing anybody can tell me, because I know just about all there is to know about the union, its struggles and functions.

As for Piney Point itself, within the near future I intend to bring my family here for a vacation. This within itself shows my approval. The food itself is superb.

My only complaint is that the heating system such as the valves ought to be repaired.

To see the young trainees here is really a sight. It makes you feel good to know that in the future you will have a ready seaman coming on the ships. He will be 100 percent more prepared to do his job than the trainee of the past.

**Mike O'Toole**  
New York

I would like to start off by saying the material we went over was wide-ranging, from the constitution, to Piney Point. But at least we got the round-about view of what is going on about us in our union, and what they are trying to do in government that is important to our membership. They told us about the laws that govern us in the maritime trade.

If nothing else, at least we will leave better informed about all phases of the workings of our union than if we hadn't even attempted to come here. So in conclusion I would have to say that I think we will all leave better SIU members, now that we know what is going on.

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# 'A Real Feeling of Friendship'

**J. Sweeney**

*New York*

I came to this conference reluctantly. I was quite content at home. Economic necessity, both present and future, forced me to go to work. Three factors influenced my coming; a real feeling of friendship for the man who suggested it; a sense of unfulfilled duty to my union, and the lifelong conviction that I have to see for myself.

I have been on many ships and in many of our shipping halls and our older schools, but this concentration of school, playground, and projected community is truly a noble experiment.

Win, lose, or draw I have been, for many years, mostly satisfied with the progress of the union and with its officials; now, I am proud! Win, lose, or draw.



**R. L. Sullivan**

*San Francisco*

I have always thought that I was a well informed member of the union, but after this conference I have learned just how little I did know. There is no member that has cussed about Piney Point, SPAD, and the Defense League more than I. Now I know that ignorance of the reasons for these three was why I felt as I did.

I hope that the union will keep having these conferences so that other members will have the chance to learn, as I did, why we must have these three things.

I learned a lot about my union history that I did not know; I learned a lot about contract, pension and welfare, and our constitution that I did not know.

This conference is called "brain washing" by some of our brothers. If this is true then in my case it has completely succeeded and for this I am thankful.

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**T. Stubbs, Jr.**

*Norfolk*

I think this is an experiment that will pay off for the most of us in the long run. It will start the young boys off in the right way and let those of us know on the ships what is going on ashore, at the headquarters, and what the other brothers are thinking. How we can help each other and straighten out grievances in the way that is best for all of us.

This is a lot bigger and better run place than I expected to find. It is well organized and well run and I can't really criticize it at all.

If they put an upgrading school in here I am really tempted to come up here and give it a try. Good luck to all in the future.

**Jake Cobb**

*New Orleans*

I attended the educational conference not knowing what to expect. What I found is the finest training school for seamen anywhere. They are not only giving

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the trainees in the three departments first class training, but they are teaching those that need to know how to read and write. I think these two subjects are good. They are even helping trainees to get high school certificates. I would like to see the program made available to the men on the ships. I think the farm is a good idea and a sound investment. The responses I have heard from the delegates has been good and rewarding.

**Gilbert Delgado**

*Houston*

I have been in nearly every port of this world and have seen many strange and nice places. But Piney Point is the best of all.

Every possibility is here for better education and greater leadership and better citizenship. Our sons and daughters will progress and this is the main thing.

I learned about the beginning of labor unions, the sufferings, and the history of our union.

The enemies, the shipowners and even our federal government, we must battle constantly. We have gained a great security by being united through better wages, pensions and welfare.

Barnum & Bailey had the greatest show on earth. But we, the SIU and its great leaders, have the greatest union. God Bless Us All.

**Ray E. Schrum**

*San Francisco*

I was hesitant to attend this conference at the beginning. But I got an understanding out of the classrooms and from the patience and understanding our officials had with explaining some of the questions that we came up with, quite a number of them stupid.

I have been taught more about the laws and how the union functions in politics and how it is financed, than I would have learned in two years otherwise.

I am only sorry to say that we didn't have this education program set up when I started my seagoing career. I am hoping to see it expand into something bigger in the future.

There has also been brought to light a lot better understanding of the welfare program and what you are entitled to in the way of benefits, things that myself and a lot of other brothers didn't take time to understand. It has also brought more closely some

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contract bargainings, about which I am sure less than 10 percent of our members understood.

As has been said before, I think everyone will go away with an altogether new outlook on the operation of this union.

In closing this I can say that I am glad I had the chance to attend and hope to see everyone get a chance to get here to find out more about this union which I will try to help any way I can. I am proud to say that I am a member of the SIU and thank all the officials for making these things possible.

**Robert Cotton**

*Houston*

The educational conference of the Seafarers International Union, in my opinion, is invaluable. In the two weeks I have been here, I have learned things about the union that I hadn't known in the 10 years I have been a member of this union.

First, I was able to meet and talk to some of the key officials whom I had only heard about or read about before. It was encouraging to learn how competent the majority of these officers are.

They are well-versed, articulate and extremely cooperative! I learned first hand why the union has been indicted by the federal government, and what is being done about it. Also the important things we should know in regards to seniority, shipping rights, vacation, contracts, and all other things an individual should know.

I go on record as supporting the union and its officials in all their endeavors.

**E. E. Davidson**

*San Francisco*

Piney Point is well located for its purpose. It has a nice waterfront for the training ships and classrooms. It has nice scenic grounds which can be greatly improved over the years. The motel and the dining room facilities are ample for most any kind of conference or convention that we might need in the future.

It seems the best of instructors for seamanship and

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all shipboard trades have been obtained. The trainees are also receiving enough military training for the purpose of disciplining a trainee mentally and physically. We have a very good staff of academic teachers who seem well trained and experienced in their fields.

The educational conference has greatly broadened membership knowledge on various subjects referring to our union. Government agents and other unions should take notice of Piney Point as a maritime school and try to better themselves in training and education.

**Peter F. DiCapua**

*Seattle*

1. Do it again.
2. Keep the lines of communication open.
3. I've got to report what was said over and over. I'm glad I came, my eyes were open, and I pledge to pass on everything I learned here because now I feel qualified to answer.
4. I could go on but all I can say now is, "Well done."



# 'I Was Finally Flabbergasted'

**Ed Brewer**  
Seattle

It is obvious to all who attended the educational conference that the conference was well organized and a great deal of work was put in on it.

The classes were well conducted in that the free exchange and discussion of all available information and a lot of things that couldn't be written down because you had to see to believe.

The school and general area and accomplishments in the buildings and facilities is excellent and a thing one must see to really believe.

The suggestion box is up and the school is so well done and well organized that it is better than I could believe without seeing it and is progressing steadily. I have no suggestions as such because the discussion on the plans for the future of the school are so all-inclusive that I can't think of anything that is not either a present part of the school, or started and being developed, or on the list of plans for the future.

I say "very well done," keep up the good work, and the best of good fortune for the realization of our plans for its future.

**Sigmund Rothschild**  
San Francisco

The purpose of this conference of delegates was to educate member of our union in regard to the aspects of the various problems of importance that most of use are ignorant of. Also in how our union was founded and fought for the conditions that exist today because of our own efforts. One item of prime importance is the indictment of our union and officials for political activities. We all should realize the importance of our donations to SPAD and the Maritime Defense League; because doing so means our very existence. How important a part politics plays, and through our political endeavors we assure ourselves of continued existence, and survival. We should inform our union brothers and enlighten them about our union struggle and other important things that they are generally ignorant of. All Seafarers should familiarize themselves with our constitution and contract. By doing this our members will gain a knowledge of our constitution and what it means, and of their own obligation to our union.

**R. J. Byrd**  
Wilmington

I have been a member of the SIU for over 20 years and this has been the first time I've come in contact with such a concentrated effort to inform the membership of things that are now, have been in the past, and will be in the future—so vitally important to us.

On many important issues I have accepted the decisions made on faith and faith alone. My visit here has justified that faith to the utmost. I have said faith because, when one is ignorant of how things are accomplished and cannot explain accomplishments, then faith is all that is left. Now I know, and my faith is justified.

The only suggestion I have to make is to follow as best we can the guidelines set down by this conference and, above all, let the rest of our people know about the advantages to be obtained here.

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**John Sclease**  
New York

I have an opportunity that most of the delegates of this conference don't have. I just graduated from this school and am now seeing it from a different viewpoint.

I think your present program is fantastic the way it is now and I hope it continues to progress at the same rate. The discipline which the trainees must undergo is by all means for the better and in no way is harming the trainee.

Unfortunately, I was just ahead of most of the present curriculum and regret this. I think it prepares the young men better than any other thing you could do for shipboard life. The educational class each morning is very helpful and I realize that without an informed membership you have no strength; and now is the time to start that education.

I can think of nothing to better the school.

**Ballard Browning**  
Baltimore

I think this is one of the best things that the SIU has done over the years.

It gives many a young boy a chance to better himself and to be a good seaman and a good union man. Piney Point is the most impressive place that I have seen in many years where the union movement is involved.

The impressive thing is not so much the physical aspects, which are beautiful, but the fact that here you are taking young men—a good many of them underprivileged from poor families—and you are making seamen out of them and teaching them how to take care for themselves as they go out in the world.

I think this is a wonderful thing.

**William L. Robinson**  
Seattle

There are not enough words to describe just what I have seen and learned during my stay here at Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship.

I did not think that they taught these young men anything at all, except how to mix the right amount, drive a truck and so forth. Now I find out just how wrong I was, and I am glad to admit it.

I came here as a joke, but now I find that the joke is on me and I believe also on many others. I have learned more about the union during my stay here for two weeks than I have during my 22 years as a book member of the SIU. Now I will be able to return to my home port and tell all the other nonbelievers about my part of the convention and just what I have seen and learned.

**N. Savoie**  
New Orleans

The short stay I've spent here at Piney Point taught me a lot. I found I didn't know as much about my union as I should have known. I recommend that members who haven't been to Piney Point on any one of these conferences, do so for their and their union's benefit.

To learn what is behind the whole idea of Piney Point. To learn about their union history maritime unity. How some agents in government are trying to bust our union and the economics of our union. Why we as members should support SPAD. They should also know how to read their contract and also their constitution and what it means to them.

We should have full knowledge of what is behind the whole idea of Piney Point and HLSS. We should also learn more about negotiation for retirement and wages and overtime and vacation. We should also be educated in Social Security, pension, hospital, welfare benefits for older members and for our own benefits when we are ready to retire.

**Jack Ryan**  
Seattle

1. History of the SIU—I was astounded at what I saw, read and learned at Piney Point. It in itself was an education just to be here. The movie "Tomorrow Is Also a Day" was authentic and enlightening; the challenge of things to come under the Merchant Marine Act of 1970.

2. The union and the law. How we strived to stay alive as a union and would not surrender; our fight to and for political recognition; and the donations to SPAD. We were able to get recognition, and support men who support us in Washington. Through the efforts of our leaders, we organized a youth movement in training young men to become our future Seafarers and named the school after a Seafarer.

These young men are of the highest quality after graduation and I am proud to be a member of an enterprise so concerned in the welfare of the future. Our constitution is a strong and just one and our cause to fight to keep the USPHS hospitals open is beyond a doubt a must.

I cannot praise these meetings enough. All members should attend.

**George Quinones**  
Wilmington

My participation as a conference delegate from the port of Wilmington, Cal., is now and always will be the greatest honor ever accorded any union member.

My conception of Piney Point was so far out of sight that when I did arrive here I was finally flabbergasted at the surroundings, service, food, and all around fellowship.

Our elected officials must be protected from harassment from outside sources at all times.

When we back our elected officers we help protect our jobs, our contractual structure, retirement peace of mind, unionist education, scholarships, our Constitutional back bone, the helping hand extended to our teenagers through HLSS, and our future incorporated village in Piney Point.

Piney Point or the Seafarers Activity Center is, in my estimation, the realization of a dream come true for the SIU members and their families.

**James P. Stroud**  
New Orleans

History is replete with accounts of the masses being held in subjection by allowing only the chosen or the elite the privilege of education and knowledge. The theory being, in part, that the poor in knowledge will not be able to understand the processes by which they could better their lot. Being kept in darkness, they were easily frightened by the things they didn't understand. Fear and ignorance are the twin shackles used to enslave the masses.

It is a great source of pride to me that our union, acting with great foresight and understanding, is challenging this theory and has undertaken the task of bringing education within the grasp of the membership.

It does this in the belief that an enlightened, educated and an intelligent membership will be better prepared to meet the challenges that are to come in the arenas of the future.

**SEAFARERS\*LOG**





# 'An Education About My Union'

## SEAFARERS\*LOG



**Alvin Smith**  
*Mobile*

I received an education about my union (the SIU) that I would not have had if it had not been for the union. By this I mean the union gave us eight dollars a day, room and board, free laundry and dry cleaning, just to mention a few things.

I have a better understanding about the union and its functions. We, the delegates, asked every question that we could think of and received the answers. To give an example, SPAD aboard ship: SPAD is often talked about and misunderstood. Now I know exactly what SPAD means, and what it is used for, and I can truthfully say that we need SPAD.

I also think a very good example is Piney Point. Brothers, I was very surprised and thrilled to see for myself the very fine job that is being done for the young trainees here. These young trainees learn skill and knowledge about the life and job of a seaman. Also the majority of the trainees are school dropouts, so for that reason there is a school here so these trainees can graduate and receive a high school diploma.

I can go on, and on, and on, saying things of interest about what I have learned in this educational conference, but in closing I say thanks to everyone here at Piney Point for a job well done.



**Edward Casey**  
*New York*

I am a delegate from New York and am making my third visit to Piney Point. I am sure that the delegates that are here for the first time must be impressed with the trainee program for the start of their seafaring career. They must also be impressed with the other facilities that are offered to this membership at this conference, mainly the education and vocational programs and union affairs. I must say that after each visit I hope that the union keeps up the good work in these conferences, and that more Seafarers will take advantage of this golden opportunity.

**Robert A. Clarke**  
*Baltimore*

When I arrived here in Piney Point Sunday, Feb. 28th, I thought I was in a summer resort. It is impossible to talk about the beauty here, because nobody would ever believe what you told them. They would have to see this place for themselves.

I wish I could have been as lucky as some of the future seamen here in Piney Point, that are getting this wonderful training, especially in the educational field. I have been in the classrooms on the different ships, and was really amazed at how the different classrooms looked. The teachers employed by the SIU here at the school are doing a wonderful job for the future seaman of tomorrow.

This is my first opportunity to participate in a

conference in the SIU and believe me, I have learned more about our union in these past two weeks than I have in the past nine years as a member.

Everything that I have learned here, and the reading material that I received here in Piney Point, will be going with me on my very first ship so that I can pass this information to my brothers who were unfortunate not to attend this educational conference of the SIU.

I will be available at any time, when I am on the beach to attend any future conferences of the Seafarers International Union.

**Wedort DeFrancisco**  
*New York*

It gave me great pleasure to come here and attend this conference listening to the many pro and con comments.

Although I haven't taken it upon myself to speak, the job had been well covered. You know and I know that many improvements may come from what we are considering here.

We may be facing many problems on technical change in the future. Our drive with SPAD and with the determined ability shown here, our aim will be focused.



**Vic Domingo**  
*Philadelphia*

I am satisfied with our union, and am glad to be a SIU member. I do my best to help our union. This is my bread and butter. So all you brothers say what can you do for your union instead of what it can do for you.

I am glad we have the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship.

I am happy to be in Piney Point, Md. I learned more in two weeks here than ever before. I am glad our union is growing up, bigger and bigger.

**Charles Young**  
*New Orleans*

In my stay at Piney Point, I have learned a great deal that I was in the dark about. One of the most important things I have learned about is the subject of SPAD.

The only thing that I myself believe is that the conference should be held down to no more than 10 days having 2 workshop sessions a day including Saturdays and Sundays. There is still a lot of work to be done here at Piney Point and the way it has been building up in three years, it won't take too much longer to complete the job. Also the personnel here has been very friendly to all.

**Paul L. Hunt**  
*New Orleans*

I would like to thank all of the officials involved in making this great conference possible. It certainly has improved my opinion and attitude towards this union, of which I am sincerely very proud to be a member.

I believe that all of the classes from day to day were vitally important to each and every one of us.

I hope that all of my brothers will see the importance of donating to SPAD and legal functions which are so vital to our welfare.

I myself will work very hard to bring all of the programs from here to my other brothers who did not attend this conference.

Just imagine the power we could have if every single brother would just open his mind to the fact that money is the key to our future politics.

I foresee Paul Hall as one of our greatest leaders in and out of the union. He is a true giant among labor leaders.

I would also like to say that the service in our dining room, and for that matter all of the other services that were given to us during our stay here,

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were far better than we could have obtained from outside facilities, so I, personally, extend my heartfelt vote of thanks to all of the personnel involved in these functions.

I also believe that I am better informed on the functions of our union in all phases.

I still think that it was a tremendous project involving a lot of sweat and tiresome hours to prepare the materials for this convention, and again I say a job well done.

In closing, I only wish to say that I would like to attend as many of these programs as possible, because I believe that this will help me to become a much better union man in that I will be, possibly, better informed in our affairs than the average brother.

**S. Cieslak**  
*Boston*

The record shows that through the history of the labor movement in the USA, the boss's hand was against us, that he'd use any means to break and destroy any labor organization, formed to give the worker a fair shake.

For labor, the middle ages and serfdom, virtual slavery, eased at the end of the nineteenth century and has virtually disappeared today. But, remember, brothers, his hand is still against us!

Today, with an alert leadership and an informed membership, we are in better shape than ever before in labor's bitter history.

But the boss will try anything to bring about our downfall, as witness these indictments against our union and officials, the latest of the constant attacks upon us. Our entire future lies with our supporting this fight. Not only our union's future—but our future, if they are not one and the same.



**C. C. Lial**  
*Houston*

I think and believe that the Piney Point recreation center and the Harry Lundeberg School is one of the most wonderful things the SIU has done for its membership. I have learned more in two weeks that I have been here, then all the years I've been in the union and I think I understand my union much more than I did before coming to this conference.

The history of its legal issues, the contracts, politics, pension, welfare, vacation, education, and constitution . . . we studied all of this and better understood it. We also learned that we must keep fighting to keep what we have, and what we hope to get in the future. We learned that our union leaders have to keep fighting for all of us in Washington, D.C. on legal issues.

I think that our leaders have been doing a wonderful job, and it makes me proud to be part of this union and I think I will be a better union brother and member for having come to this conference. I would not have believed it if I had not come here and saw it with my own eyes. I hope that I'll be able to come back here again.



# 'The Support of Every Union Brother'

**Raymond Perry**

*Houston*

One of the many pleasantries that come to us as we travel along life's highway is the unexpected pleasure that once in awhile unexpectedly gives you a happy feeling. Such is Piney Point.

When I was asked to make the trip, I fully looked forward to a beautiful "brainwashing" by the union official. However, the exact opposite was the case. We were cordially welcomed, assigned excellent sleeping quarters with shower and mail service, and were given meals that cannot be described.

Each morning we attended classes, with a general assembly in the afternoon. At these gatherings they told it to us as it really is. No attempt to brainwash was attempted and you will have to really visit the Piney Point to see just what goes on. The farm, the various ships owned by the union, the motel, the plans for the future all add up to a bigger and better union which deserves the support of every union brother.

**Everett Perry**

*Wilmington*

To put my opinion of this Conference in 100 words is impossible. I feel that it would require a small book to tell the advantages and benefits garnered here.

Among the thoughts I find is that my entrance to this facility was a shock as I was, in no way, prepared for what I found here. The planning for accommodations, service, classes, and recreation was well thought out and adequately provided for. One of the best assets here has been the ability of members from "out-ports" to meet union officials as well as meet agents from other "out-ports." The open free discussions exhibited, both in workshops and in afternoon seminars, has brought the membership to closer understanding and tighter unity. Food was of excellent quality and well prepared.

Taken as a whole I have found it most gratifying and have learned a great deal. Being able to meet and talk with trainees has taught me that the trainees are a good investment in the future.



**Ramon Moran**

*San Juan*

One of the most dramatic battles fought during early history of the SIU centered around the struggles for welfare and other social benefits for seamen. When the SIU was chartered in 1938, there were no benefits.

The fight for social benefits began in the day of Andrew Fureseth, the Patron Saint of seamen, and had yet to achieve its goals. By the time the SIU was organized, conditions improved. We had a hard fight but in 1951 we started to receive our vacation benefits. Since 1951, it has gone ahead.

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**Willard McMillion**

*San Francisco*

This Seafarers Educational Conference has been a great thing in several ways. Meeting old timers, finding out the facts of the past and outlook for the future, for ourselves and the young men in the future. Our outlook for the retirement homes, which lots of seamen never had, this school at Piney Point has given me a better understanding how bad a man needs an education to man the new ships coming out and especially the political future of our seaman.

**Ralph Ruff**

*Baltimore*

I was surprised to see Piney Point, but after being here for the educational conference, I got a better outlook on the union and the programs that we are in. I have now learned a lot more than I knew before this conference, and have a new outlook on the school programs.

I visited the library and all the classes. I am surprised to see what the union is doing for the new boys coming into the union.

The training being given to our boys will make them better seamen and better union men aboard ships.

I would like to congratulate the staff and members for the fine job they are doing with the boys at Piney Point.

**James B. Dixon**

*Mobile*

My stay at Piney Point has been a very educational one and enjoyable one. I have learned that it is more to being a union man than just belonging to a union. Every Seafarer that belongs to this union has the same right to come to this conference that I have.

I hope that this conference can continue. I have been one of the brothers that has talked about a lot of things, not knowing the facts. Brother, I know some of the working facts of this union. I can tell another story now that I have had a lot of things cleared up for me.

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**Robert Mendez**

*San Francisco*

After coming to the conference at Piney Point I was impressed and I learned so much about the history of the SIU.



**Collie Loper**

*Mobile*

The educational conference was very helpful to me, and I think it was good for the members who participated. As for myself I learned a lot on union affairs, and how hard my union works for me. I am glad to know there will be more conference to inform the membership.

I found that the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship was more than I thought it to be, and found it to be very good school for young men who want to make a living by going to sea. It gives them some of the basics of ship life and also academic and vocational training.

**Lucien Fred Drew**

*Norfolk*

Everyone involved is to be commended for the arrangement of this entire operation and among the tops are the ladies, as teachers, instructors, or whatever their position. In the conversation I've held with various young men, I gather these good women add spice, lifting of morale, and general inspiration. Many, without knowing it, take the place of mother, sister, or any other loved one who is missing out of some young man's life.

The library is of vital importance to many, and just the workshops are a fellow's dream. They are striving for top grades because they fully intend to make a career of going to sea.

I am happy in my heart that so many are getting the opportunity without coming up the hard way like me and so many others.

Another great achievement is the home for some of us old timers now getting under way. They will be a great help in providing us with a home within a home where we can spend our last God-given and blessed days in our chosen environment, close to and beside some one that speaks our language. A seaman, over a period of time, develops a language of his own.

**S. Wilson**

*New Orleans*

I am glad to have been able to come to Piney Point. I think the program is of great importance to the membership.

Since I have been here I have learned a lot about the union and its problems that I didn't know before. I think these conferences should be continued and all members be encouraged to come here and see first hand what is being done here.



# 'A Healthy and Vibrant SIU'



**R. R. Michaelis**  
Houston

From its inception the SIU has been an illustration of continuous progression, from the early status of unsteady adolescence to its present-day streamlined adulthood.

In 1938, its first steps were guided and directed under the able leadership of Harry Lundeborg, who is now considered to be one of the labor movement greats.

Paul Hall succeeded to this office in 1957 and was instrumental in molding, expanding, and polishing this maritime union until it is now one of the most powerful and effective organizations in the labor field.

The SIU is no longer just a union, but more rightly an institution in form. It is highlighted by the recent creation of the Piney Point installation, which is a facility that embodies the training, upgrading, education and recreation of seaman, on a thousand acres tract of land.

Upon my being selected as a delegate in the March, 1971, conference to be held in Piney Point, I was both delighted and impressed with what has and is being done in this area of the SIU. The Lundeborg motel and food were pleasant and adequate. The conference program and education was well organized as to subjects with available literature and length of duration. The entertainment and recreation were enjoyable and relaxing. All of us were impressed with the trainee precision program that prepares newcomers for shipboard life. Most of us now feel, as SIU members, we have something more concrete to identify with, in the sense that, we all contributed towards bringing these about, with the struggles of the early years along with the efforts and support of the present membership. It is also something that holds for a more promising future with the junior members.

**Kenny Coats**  
Wilmington

The educational conference has made me more acutely aware of the overall massive and complex struggle the SIU is involved in. Its past history, present policy, philosophic and rational projections for the future, present a picture of a healthy and vibrant SIU, a maritime labor union that radiates and commands honor, dignity and quality, obtaining all the aforementioned through self-discipline and its own efforts.

I have always maintained that education was the answer to many of our problems.

HLSS is the rejuvenating element as attrition takes its toll of those still on the firing line.

I sincerely feel the progressive thinking, actions and wisdom of those responsible for this nonviolent revolutionary approach to issues will be acclaimed a milestone in the recorded annals of maritime labor history.

Today this is the significance, to me, of the educational conference.

Tomorrow is also a day.

**Arthur Rummel**  
New York

I consider myself fortunate to have once again had the opportunity to participate as a member of our delegation. Sorry I could take no part verbally, (lost all teeth) but my interest was not lacking throughout the meetings.

Was particularly impressed with the eagerness of our members to gather knowledge in reference to our daily sessions. They certainly refreshed my memory.

To me Piney Point is a stepping stone to the future and well-being of our merchant marine. The trainee here certainly is well trained and informed, so that when boarding a vessel he has the qualifications to carry out his job with knowledge and with respect for his superiors.

Many thanks to our officials who so diligently carried out their duties on the workshops and made our stay here a memorable one.

As I carry on as an active member, it will be my duty to carry the word to the less fortunate who could not attend and enlighten and inform our brothers of the facts and knowledge that I was so fortunate to have absorbed and gained.

Hope our leader Paul Hall will remain in good health for years to come for without his effort, loyalty, and guts we could easily have been in trouble many times.

**James F. Cleator**  
Baltimore

In the two weeks that I have spent at the educational conference I have learned qualified answers to subjects pertaining to all concerned seamen in the SIU. To know that this union has been responsible for creating one of the finest seaman educational centers in the country, the HLSS, the course it offers to the young man who plans on making the sea his career, is a good comprehensive one.

To cover all facts of the conference would take up too much time. I can only voice my sentiments by saying that all these conferences, educational or otherwise, are very well worth while.

I realize that most of the good work achieved has only been possible by the fact we are fortunate enough to have such good and competent leaders. To keep such leadership we must protect and uphold their actions, by contributing to the legal and political organizations to protect us.

**D. R. Creamer**  
Houston

The first school class I was in we learned about the history of the union. I learned when the first union was formed, and the bitter fight they had and how they fought for a better union, better wages, better living conditions.

I have learned a lot about the past. I have learned about the long hard struggle they had. I learned about the contract and how it is negotiated between union and company to set wages, overtime and living conditions with higher vacation and welfare benefits.

Yes, it has been a long hard fight, but if anything is worth having, it is worth fighting for.

**M. Steen**  
San Francisco

I found the Harry Lundeborg School excellent and a big asset to our union.

**Ballard Jackson**  
Norfolk

The necessity of electing the right politicians, a better understanding of our constitution and contracts.

A thorough understanding of where the different donations go and what they are used for.

More knowledge of the welfare and pension plan.

More about the Harry Lundeborg School of Seamanship. The training the young men are getting in this school. The vacation plan set up here at Piney Point for Seafarers and their families.

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This conference has given me the true faith that I can pass on to my shipmates as first hand knowledge of Piney Point. The farm at Piney Point and the future plans for homes for Seafarers and families. And what it will mean to them in the savings in food prices. Also in better living conditions.

**Max L. Stewart**  
New Orleans

The training program for these young men here at Piney Point seems to me to meet all the demands for preparing a person for life at sea and the maritime industry.

The educational system is really a good idea for all—for the others who for no fault had no chance for education, the drop-out, the young man who had to quit his education to support a family, etc.—this gives them a second chance to acquire this schooling—to finish high school if desired and go on to greater and better opportunities in the future life ahead.

The farm project is a good, sound idea and investment—for those who wish to continue and be near the life that they have pursued for the most part of their lives—it appears that this farm will be self-supporting, that the funds put into this project will be coming back at a later date.

**Jose M. Castell**  
San Juan

The following is an explanation of what I have learned on this two weeks I have been on the Harry Lundeborg School of Seamanship Training Center. In my own words, I never believed that we were going to get so far in such a short period of time.

In 1942 when I was 16 years of age I didn't even have an idea that one of my sons was going to be one of these fine school members.

My son now has been going to sea for over 3 years and we members of this great union have made it possible for him to upgrade himself and have all the opportunity that we didn't have ourselves. At the time I started sailing, our union was only 4 years old. But now it is 33 years old. This SIU is the greatest seafarers' union in the "whole world."



**Charles J. Frey**  
New Orleans

My stay here has been extremely pleasant. I find it very difficult to be critical of anything.

I have received nothing but courtesy from both the staff and the trainees. The food was superb and the service excellent.

I would suggest that the post exchange be expanded to include film, especially Polaroid.

While here, I have missed television in my off hours and since the major stations are distant, I would suggest that outside television antennas be installed on the motel roof top together with the necessary couplings for outlets in every room for private television.

I would further suggest that in developing the farm, a section be set aside and facilities be provided for electric, sewerage and water to service recreation vehicles; campers, trailers, and motor homes. Recreation vehicles are a fast growing thing; something that all the family can participate in. I hope this is given serious consideration.

I believe the group was handled very well, split up into small segments in the workshops, and we were able to have some individuality.

And I especially liked the question and answer sessions in the afternoons. Mr. Hall is a very gifted speaker. I was impressed with his ability to field questions from the floor. My confidence in Mr. Hall and the Seafarers International in general has increased tremendously.

An added bonus has been the opportunity to meet the various officials from all the ports; it will be very valuable in many ways especially in future elections.



# 'Go to Piney Point and Learn'

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**H. Whitman**  
Seattle

I recommend that any seaman, and especially some of the older book men, to go to Piney Point and learn about the functions of our union.

Was glad to see young men, many drop-outs from school and some with minor beefs with the law, have a chance to stand up and change.

With the instruction and training they get, most will make future good shipmates and union brothers.

Piney Point is not only for young men but for members to up-grade. It is also a vacation facility for ourselves and families.

**E. H. Walker**  
Houston

I joined the union in Tampa, Feb. 5, 1942, and I went to sea 26 years and I retired in 1968. One thing I came up to the conference is to see what the young boys are doing. I enjoyed being here. I hope to come up again.

**Alfred Ray Sawyer**  
Norfolk

I enjoyed my stay in Piney Point very much and I think what they are doing for these boys will make them fine union members and good SIU men in the future. I think the HLSS is the finest in the world and a good place for a young man to learn about seamanship and get a good education as well, with God's help and the SIU.

I hope it will go on for ever. Also since my stay at Piney Point I have learned more about the union and its by-laws than in the 25 years that I have belonged to the SIU. I hope I will have the chance to come up here again to attend another conference in the near future as I think all brothers should. It is a very learned cause and I am looking to attend the next one.



**James Hart**  
San Francisco

I had heard that we were wasting a lot of money and time up here for nothing and was advised not to come up here as I would have to work my a— off.

I have found that none of this is true and have also learned for myself to get the facts before making a decision and not to jump to conclusions.

This also is true in relation to our elected officials, our contracts, obligations such as backing our union 100 percent in its entirety. I have learned that we will be better informed about everything that we have studied, all of which has been in the *Log* at one time or another.

I was very happy to learn about the farm and housing for something is finally being done about a home after retirement.

**D. Schaeffer**  
Wilmington

There are simply not enough words to describe the tremendous job which the HLSS is trying to do for the young and upcoming seaman of tomorrow.

Not only do they have the opportunity to learn a little about seamanship, but they can also obtain a high school diploma if they so desire and also upgrade themselves. Dollar for dollar, the Point offers excellent vacation facilities for the membership and their families.

So to sum up, we have come a long way and we still have a long way to go to obtain our ultimate goal of a better and stronger union.

**J. Stringer**  
Houston

I am sure that most of the elected delegates came to Piney Point with the same thought that I did. I heard before coming to Piney Point, that it was just a place where the new men coming in worked in order to become seamen. After being here a few days I found that this was true in the beginning of Piney Point, but now we have something to be proud of.

We now have a program that combines vocational, academic, and trade union education. We will, within the near future, have a seamen's community—which I believe we not only need, but should also support wholeheartedly.

I would like to state that I believe all members should continue to support SPAD and also the Maritime Defense League.

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**Vincent J. Fitzgerald**  
New Orleans

In this particular workshop each day has been exciting due to one fact. We took a different topic and went all through it step by step. Labor union history from Andrew Furuseth right on up to date. The legal aspects of labor unions, its importance, its pitfalls, namely outside agencies, rivals, police who are ever watchful regarding all our people, the different malcontents who try to live off either the company's contracts or our union; then our political action field which is so very important to all members ashore and also that we have the right politicians in office who are helpful to our people.

SPAD and Maritime Defense League and the importance of always being ready moneywise to assist in both fields and to explain to our absent brothers in our outports and when we go back aboard our ship the necessity of keeping these things going as it really is our very lives that are concerned here, namely our future, as has been said when we came from where we are and where are we going, that's very important.

We have all seen with our own eyes what is being done to prepare our future SIU men. Going to sea is a very honorable and just calling in life. Our dedicated officials, falling together as one team these many years, the same tried and true officials who have banded together and made us come such a long, long way.

I truly believe that due to our workshops we will all return to our various ports and let our brothers know that their interests are really being protected.



**D. H. Gibson**  
Jacksonville

Seafarers Educational Conference from March 1 to March 14, 1971, as seen and understood by me:

**Labor History**—A good history of the labor movement, especially the maritime labor movement in the past as pertaining to the SIU.

**Legal**—Aspects of laws in the past and present that affect the SIU and maritime labor. More support should be given by members to aid SPAD financially.

**Contract**—The best in the industry, that spells out a member's working conditions, pay and living conditions, his right before the employer, welfare and vacation security included in the best of maritime contracts.

**Political Education**—As a union member and citizen, every SIU member should participate in all phases of political activity especially in the political field of maritime legislation as this fight is a continuing battle between our union and those who would destroy us.

**Pension, Welfare and Vacation**—Once again SIU members find that they have the best of all three in the maritime industry. While other maritime unions pension and welfare benefits are in financial trouble, the SIU continues on sound financial and future planning with the idea that what is best of all members is the best policy to pursue.

**Education**—An important aspect of the SIU for it brings to all members the knowledge learned in the past, and what may be required of the future. The program of scholarships is second to none in the labor union movement. The area of trade union education should be further emphasized aboard ship.

**Constitution**—The SIU Constitution, the single most important document that applies to every SIU member.

**John C. Green**  
Baltimore

Let me start by saying that this is my second time here and I have seen the improvements that have been made since then. I have seen where our money is going—for the membership to have something and somewhere he can call his own, and a place to enjoy as well as to retire and live.

As for the schoolboys, it is a good feeling to know that after I retire there will be someone carrying on where I left off. The job Brother Paul Hall is doing: He is doing well, but he has to always be ready to fight when the time comes, and has to stay alert at all times. One mistake and we stand to go down the drain.

As for the equipment here, it goes back a long way, and it is good for the members and schoolboys to learn about it. It is good for the boys to find out about the long struggle from the start until now, and it is good for the boys to get all the training they can before shipping out on their first ship. Workshops are very good for all.

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# 'Should Not Have Been Missed'

## SEAFARERS\*LOG



Thomas Caylor

Mobile

When I came here I did not know what to expect. After attending the various classes things are more clear to me . . . some for the first time. I have learned about SPAD and the legal defense fund. I also learned the whole story of the bull beef contribution. I visited the farm and learned of the plans for that. The homes and recreation area that are to be built there. I also am better informed on the school and its activities, present and planned. I also learned of the vocational opportunities that are offered here at the school. To close, this has been a very informative conference and should not have been missed by anyone that had the opportunity to attend.

William Morris

New York

While attending the crew and pensioner conference, and even when I worked at Piney Point, I was honestly amazed.

But there is no end to my surprise and elation at each succeeding visit. There is always some improvement and betterment.

All the finest superlatives, for me, are expressed in two words — Piney Point.

The scope of the program in progress or being contemplated is so varied that each one is beautiful, but I know that they will all be successfully concluded.

James Sanders

New York

We have covered various subjects of and about our union. I have learned an awful lot that I would not have known if I had not attended this conference.

We have seen on what and why our money has been spent. I have nothing to say against this spending. I am proud to be a part of it.

I believe as long as the members support our officers we will still get farther ahead of those that are forever trying to break us up. I do believe we have the most able officers and they are forever on their toes in the problems we have ahead.

As I said before I am proud to be a part of this.

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Willie Grant

Jacksonville

The HLSS is the largest training center for Merchant Seafarers in the United States. To me the school is very good and one I hope I can come back to.

I learned about the union and Piney Point and seafarers education, labor union history, and trade union issues, contract, pension, welfare and vacations and constitution and union meetings and shipboard behavior. I love the food and the Maryland Room and one day I hope my family will come down for a vacation.

Bobby Lister

Houston

Since coming to Piney Point on my second conference I thought that I was well informed from my first, but since I participated in the educational program, I knew that there was a lot more that I did have to learn about our union. In any future conference I will be willing to come, because I feel that there is still a lot that I would like to know about my union, which means *our* union.

Brother seaman, I think in a future conference that you should participate in really a great educational program. And I should say that there should not be five or 10 SIU conferences in the future, but a 1,000,000, if possible.



Robert E. Hartley

Tampa

The one thing that impressed me most about this conference was the fact that every question asked was answered in great detail. Like a lot of other brothers, I, too, had some misgivings about the course our union was on, to the point that I became apathetic. Since arriving here and participating in the conference I now realize it was because of a lack of communication and understanding of the problems confronting our officials.

Nearing the end of this conference I take back with me a renewed confidence in our unity and a firm purpose to take a more active part in doing all I can, to help in any way I can, to solve these problems. Furthermore, I resolve to encourage all I come in contact with to visit Piney Point so they, too, may see the new course our union is taking to the betterment of the membership.

Let us apply J.F.K.'s famous quotation to ourselves, "Don't ask yourself what your union can do for you. Rather, ask yourself what you can do for your union."

Ernest R. Hoitt

New Orleans

In the past 14 days here at wonderful Piney Point, the SIU has made a first in all of maritime unions. The SIU has made it possible to study all phases of this industry for some 250 members at the same time. Another great first is that our President, Paul Hall, answered any and all questions in all areas of great concern to us seamen.

In the past 14 days we studied nine subjects such as union history; political education, and political action; pension and welfare; education in trade unions and vocational; Constitution, our bible and bill of rights; contracts; the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship; and union meetings and shipboard behavior.

We have had the wonderful chance to find out just what SPAD does for us and also what the Maritime Defense League is all about and how to use it. We also found out just what the indictments and the injustices mean to all of us.

There have been so many firsts in the past few years that I can say again as before that I am very proud to be a member of this wonderful SIU.

I wish to give a personal vote of thanks to the

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cooks and waiters and all others that were responsible for putting on and the service of the food.

I can only give praise and thanks to all the people responsible for this and all other conferences.

J. Morris

Jacksonville

This educational conference is one of the most important to me because I am soon to be a pensioner and can look to the future and see the strength the membership shall have.

I also see that I shall not have any worries as able and capable men shall replace me. My part in this union shall be carried on by the men coming into Piney Point now.

But most important, I have had explained to me what I am going to get from the union and also what medical aid I shall receive after retiring.

To know I shall have a place to come to talk and to live if I desire is also a load off my mind. And because of this I shall be able to relax and enjoy my remaining years.

Willie Graham

Jacksonville

I have been told about Piney Point but never was able to come until this Educational Conference. Since going to class on subjects about the union, I have learned more about the union and what it has done in the past and what the union will be faced with in the days ahead. I have enjoyed all my classes and the summary in the afternoon. I have also seen what a real good job is being done here at Piney Point. I have enjoyed the Maryland Room and also my family one day will enjoy what the union and the membership have done.

L. Fiorentino

New Orleans

Because of my limited education in the English language, 'cause I was educated in Italy I can't say much: what could I say; only that I have been very impressed in this great masterpiece; that is, Piney Point and the Lundeberg School with all these facilities such as: motel, restaurant, lounge, and all kinds of recreation and most of all the farm I like best. Considering that I don't know a thing about farming, maybe it's because I'm getting close to pension time. I thank all the personnel for everything.

## SEAFARERS\*LOG





# 'I Will Always Carry My Head High'

## SEAFARERS LOG



**William M. Donovan**  
New York

A prominent feature of the conference, in my opinion, has been the high degree of general competence in the staff administration in the discharge of instructional duties. While there is and has been a constant degree of knowledge by the delegates on the various subjects, technical and non-technical, which have been discussed.

One of the most dynamic features has been the eagerness of the officials involved to receive our suggestions and recommendations.

The zeal of the delegate has been more than matched in this conference by the sincerity and bona-fide purpose of the administration.

**A. E. Moore**  
New York

Never have so many sailors owed their livelihood to so few than the men who sail SIU ships and on pension. This is because the leaders of this union has been so fair and honest. Piney Point in the record of all their hard work and I will always carry my head high as I am so proud of this union. I endorse everything that we have here for the young and old and pray that it grows and grows till we are known worldwide. I will try my best to come to Piney Point each and every time I have a chance.

**Thomas L. Harrell**  
Houston

On opening this essay, I will go so far as to say that I was one of the last to volunteer to come up here.

On arrival I was amazed at the informative and comfortable surroundings. By informative, I mean the various antique artifacts, models, and exhibits concerning sailors of the world and their past. I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and then started into business which was intermingled with pleasure masterfully.

Our first subject was labor history which I had never investigated before. It told of our forefathers and what they endured and fought to improve and accomplish what we have today.

The second subject was the union and law. The instructors impressed upon me the various pitfalls encountered by our leaders and the different laws that can be used against them. The importance of Maritime Defense League and in the fight to better ourselves.

The third subject was union contracts which dealt with our working conditions, wages and benefits. How a contract is gained and its importance to the member.

The fourth subject was political education and action. The importance of SPAD is immeasurable in that it is our only weapon in which to scale Capitol Hill in order to gain what we need to better ourselves.

Then the weekend of enjoying ourselves; boating, bowling, shooting pool, visiting farms and various other recreations.

On Monday we started business again on the subject of pension, welfare and vacation programs. It was explained how it works. What it provides and the very importance of these documents. Also how important it is to fight to keep the USPHS hospitals open.

**Lawrence P. Hogan**  
New York

Well, here I am back here again. This is my third time down here.

The first time here I had my wife and my youngest boy and his wife and four children and we had a ball here. They can't get back here fast enough this summer. That goes for me and the wife.

The second time was the Pensioners Conference. This time it is the Educational Conference, which I think is 100 percent educational, believe me. I learned more here on politics than I ever knew before, in fact, I could take a senator's job now myself!

As far as the kid students are concerned, I have been in all the shops and I watched them. They sure get a very good start here, at least when they leave here they know something. Then it is up to their shipmates to take over and show them from then on.

Well, I want to thank President Paul and all the officials who made all of this possible. I am looking forward to the houses you are going to build here. Then I can come down here and stay in Piney Point for the few years I have left in this old world.

**Walter Grosvenor**  
New York

Digesting our two-week tenure here at Piney Point, I've found all topics brought up daily in our class most enlightening and constructive.

Beginning with supplements one to four, where we discussed our union history, political contacts in Federal operation, the many legal issues, the advances we've made in seaborne contracts compared today from the days of the old Morgan Line also including the cuisine and crew accommodations here are superior. Then, too, the outrageous maritime bills exercised against our union were terribly unfair and unjust.

Continuing on from supplement five to eight, discussing the pension and welfare plans. The average pensioner does not have to speculate about his checks and welfare attention in the future for himself and family; a wonderful system and amazing foresight on the part of our executive officials in setting up such a powerful plan in comparison to the inferior operation of our competitors.

The vacation plan now existing is ideal for the active seafarer and appreciated by all concerned. The Harry Lundeberg School for Seafarers at Piney Point offer the best of accommodations, tasty meals, numerous recreational activities at amazingly rock-bottom prices. Dollarwise the whole picture is a fantastic, economical blessing.

Then the HLS of Seamanship where the youth is trained and schooled in modern atmosphere and professional instructors in all seagoing facilities—an amazing enterprise successfully operated.

Then our huge farm with all seafarers looking forward to the homes of tomorrow for the membership and families with apartments with modern facilities plus accessibility to supermarkets, schools, recreational areas.



**Thomas Navarre**  
Wilmington

Attending this 1971 educational conference was without a doubt, the most constructive thing ever to be done in this membership. Of course, during this conference everything was said and corrected in reference to rules and contracts, so this pleases me.

The quarters, food and service in the dining room was outstanding. This includes the bar and front offices as well. There isn't anything left to say except that I am proud to be part of this membership and have learned more in these few days than I had learned in the past twenty years at sea, and I will attend the next conference if I'm about at the time. And last, Mr. President, I can't see anyone to fill your shoes, please hang on for lots more years.

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**Leonard Maham**  
Jacksonville

What I received from this conference covers a lot more broad range than I had before attending the school at Piney Point.

I picked up many topics I knew very little about and some new ones. I can truly say I am very proud of our leaders and what they are doing. I am sure it is for our benefit, and ours only, so I feel whatever course they take our membership will follow wholeheartedly. From what I have seen and heard at this conference, education plays a very big part in politics, schooling and the family man to bring up the standard of living, which in turn will make every seafarer stand tall and be a very proud man.

I am sure if we can keep working, we will support every move our able leaders ask for or make. I always say if you do something or get something, get the best, and brother, I firmly believe we have it.

**P. Gallegos**  
San Francisco

I have been a member of SIU a little over four years and now have B seniority. I nominated myself for this conference when I saw that not enough of men were interested.

I figured this would be a good chance to find out how the union was run and the purpose of the different activities. SPAD and MDL are the two things which members had mouth the most.

I now understand the purpose for these and am for it 100 per cent. Without them the union would never have accomplished the things it has.

In President Paul Hall and our other elected officials I feel we have a well organized team of competent men who are looking out after our best interests and deserve all the backing we can give them.

**Sandy Crawford**  
Philadelphia

In this conference I learned a lot. In the two short weeks I've been here I have learned what I didn't know in the years I've been a union member. I have a very good idea about all the training here. The trainees will be good union members from the beginning. This wasn't meant for me, but I feel no regret. I have two sons in the Navy and if I could offer this to them maybe I could offer this to my grandsons, too.

**Nick Martin**  
Houston

Coming to this conference in an unenlightened sense of what it is all about I find myself very much in agreement with everything that is taking place and will take place here in the future.

I am very much in favor of having more conferences, to enlighten our union brothers as to what our officials are trying to do here.

I think this is an important phase in our lives and well being, so I for one would like to see it continued for as long as possible.

I am thankful for the chance to have participated in the conference.



# 'How the Infant Has Grown'

Robert K. Goodnick

Baltimore

The essay I was asked to write containing one hundred words or more about my stay here in Piney Point from March 1 thru 14 attending this Educational Conference, and what I have learned, cannot start through that period of time but dates back to the time when I originally joined this union and became a full book man on January 16, 1946.

All through those years of sailing, it was my thought the union was only there for me to procure a job, apply my dues, assessments, etc., go out on any picket line and help in any way possible, money wise, that was assigned me through proper union authority, until I came to this educational conference here at Piney Point.

Here I was taught just what this union is and what it is striving to do for my fellow members, and the youngsters that are being taught here.

In the 10 days of classes I have attended here I have learned more about this union than in the twenty-five years that I have been a full book man in this union.

There is one particular subject that was discussed in Workshop No. 4 that was of real significance to me and that was Supplement No. 4 pertaining to Political Education. Out of all the nine supplements, this taught me more than any of the rest and it is my contention that this subject be brought before the membership at regular meetings in all ports, taking myself as an example, I never knew what SPAD stood for.

Now I know.

John Wright

San Francisco

I like it here at Piney Point and learned a lot about the history of the SIU . . . especially the part about the SPAD Donation, that without this donation the Maritime Bill of 1971 would have never been passed.

Charlie Mazur

New Orleans

These are my thoughts and observations on the first educational conference of the SIU which I had the privilege to attend at Piney Point from March 1 to 14, 1971.

How the infant has grown! From its first headquarters on Stone St. to its present strong and influential position in the maritime trades industry. Because of the farsightedness and dedication of our president and elected officials, along with the backing of an ever militant membership, we are and have this respected place in organized labor today.

The Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship and adjoining farm at Piney Point, first and only institution of its kind ever established by a labor union in the long history of the labor movement in the USA, is conclusive proof of the calibre of the men who have guided us through those 33 years of our existence. It is a tribute to their leadership and it will stand as a monument to the man who conceived the idea of it and, in his lifetime, was able to see it become a reality.

How fortunate we in the SIU are to have this man for our president. How confident we must feel that Brother Paul Hall shall continue to lead us through the difficult years which lie ahead. The SIU is indeed in good hands.

When we leave Piney Point and return to those ports from which we came, we must remember all that we saw here and what we learned. We must pass on to our brothers in the union halls and aboard our ships at sea all this information. It will help to keep them informed and thereby keep our union strong, always.

Joseph F. Freiel

New Orleans

It has been quite an experience.

It's sad to say it, but my education as a good union man started today at Piney Point, 26 years after I joined this union. I have gained a complete and new way of positive thinking about the affairs, political as

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well as educational, that my union is involved in in the daily struggle for the welfare of its members.

I've been most surprised at the complete freedom allowed to us to entertain in constructive criticism of our union, by all our officials, including Paul Hall.

It has been an intelligent gathering of union members and regardless of the amount of money spent, it will pay off in the long run.



Rey Figueroa

San Francisco

1. The labor union history—I have learned enough history on how our union became great through struggle, hardships and success.

2. The legal issues—The legal issues of 1936 was the Wagner Act giving us lawful rights to organize and bargain collectively.

3. The SIU contract—The unions were given a legal and tangible agreement between the employer and the employees. It is fair.

4. Political education—The recent fight for rights is effective.

5. Vacation and welfare and pension plan—The Pension and Vacation plan is worth while, especially when we retire.

6. Vocational and academic trade union program—I have the right to study in our own school.

7. The constitution—It is the law of our union, this constitution, adopted in order to improve our society.

8. The Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship—We are taught in our workshop how the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship will improve.

9. Union meeting and shipboard behavior—I am confident that our meetings are quite fair about our behavior and understanding.

F. Munoz

San Juan

Like any other delegate that came to this place for the first time, I am quite impressed; prior to this invitation, I have done a lot of speculation on what

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was expected of me and in which way I would be able to help.

Here I am two weeks later, much wiser and experienced, participating fully in all activities, debates, arguments, policy making; for which I am very grateful.

When I get back I'll have to do a lot of explaining and of course I expect the usual argument to ensue out all this, but I am sure that I'll be able to convey most of what I learned without too much trouble.

I am also proud of the fact of having taken part in the history of this union while it was being made, even though I didn't join it until 1943, and much more proud of its constitution, of HLSS and the staff and students that participate in it.

Francis F. Gomez

Mobile

I joined this union back in 1944 and have been an active seaman since that time. It was tough going when I started out but not tough enough to stop me from fighting for my union and livelihood.

In the process of doing my job and fighting for my union, and helping in every way I can, my union has grown and is still growing. Since attending this conference, which is my first time in Piney Point, I am very proud of myself for helping, and proud to see that my union is putting my money to good use.

I want to thank each and every one, from our president, all the way down, for a job well done. Will ask our officials to continue the good work and they can depend on my full support. My time spent at the conference was very educational and enjoyable.

William T. Mackey

New York

The Educational Conference at Piney Point has had a very personal enlightening effect on me. I was a trainee at the inception of the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship based at Piney Point, Md. When I was stationed here for a period of approximately five months, all we did was work from 6 or 7 a.m. till 5 or 6 p.m. at breaking ground to lay pipeline or carpentry work or swinging sledge hammers while demolishing some of the old structures on the base. As you can see doing this work left very little time to learn the skills of seamanship and to receive union indoctrination or orientation.

When I arrived here at "the Point" on Sunday, Feb. 28, 1971, my surprise was paramount. I couldn't believe my eyes. The layout and security, and the discipline that was enforced among the troops was very impressive. The accommodations were comfortable and pleasant the staff went out of their way to make sure all was in order.

The classes started on Monday morning at 8:30 and that was when my first union education started. Since that most enlightening morning until the termination of the conference on classes on Friday, March 12, 1971. Some of the subjects covered during this period were, labor history (a complete look into the history of the SIU and the labor movement from birth up until the present time). We discussed the legal aspect and workings of the union. We went into the contract, "The Bible," in depth and I must say there was a hell of a lot that I wasn't aware of. The political aspect and how we stood in the political arena was covered and again my attention was drawn to the fact that I was a pretty ignorant union member. I truthfully think this conference has been an education.

Protasio Herrera

Philadelphia

As a member I have learned more in these two weeks about many things than I have learned during my eleven years in this industry. I am also happy to know and see with my two eyes about these new recruits who will take over our place when oldtimers retire from this industry.

And I am also happy and give a vote of thanks to our president and all the officials who attended this education conference that gave me more knowledge for what we fight for. Also a vote of thanks for our good facilities and the good food I had these two weeks of stay here in Piney Point, Md.



# 'Do Not Delay to Call on

**Johnnie B. McClenton**

*Jacksonville*

There is a matter of very special importance that I would like to bring to you at this time. I am an upgrader through the Harry Lundberg School. I came to this school in 1969, the months of July and August. I got my lifeboat ticket and my "Able Seaman" document. I myself can say that Harry Lundberg School is one of the best things that could have come to the SIU. Brothers, I can tell you that since we have H.L. School we have better cooks, better deck hands, and black gangs. I am proud to be a brother of the SIU and to know that I have a place for me and my family to go and live if I desire too. If there is anything that my union wishes for me to do, I hope that they do not delay to call on me. Thank you, brothers and Mr. Chairman, for letting me express my feelings toward HLSS. I hope that one day the union will send for me again.

**L. Goodwin**

*New York*

My stay at Piney Point has been a great experience. With 30 years as a seafarer, these conferences refreshed my mind in many subjects.

I propose a clinic for alcoholic counseling for those in need. We all know seamen are fairly educated, but drinking is our big problem. I would like to see more help for seamen along these lines.

**John Harrobin**

*New York*

I was never here before, so after rumors and hearsay, some good—some bad, I was taken by surprise and shook up a bit at what I saw, and the great progress that had been made. It sure took plenty of planning plus some very hard work, sweat, and freezing.

I was impressed with the number of boys here in training, their behavior, their caliber, all-around discipline. The installations are a work of art, the ships, quarters, meeting-place for all workshops, lobby, restaurant or Anchor Room and, last but not least, the Anchor Bar and entertainment.

I sure go for the manner the boys handle colors in morning and at night. That is the only flag for me always. The routine in general for boys and delegates is full of action, enough to satisfy all hands. So in ending I think every SIU man should come down and see for himself.

**Anthony Ferrara**

*New York*

I suggest a yearly or semi-yearly educational program such as this. All members should attend not only for their own good, but also for the good and advancement of the union. The officials should be included. All should be brought up to date on union affairs and plans for the future.

A booklet "Ports of Call" should be published to be given to all members and made available in all ports and put on all ships in the ships' library. This could contain places of interest to see, monetary exchanges, not necessarily the exchange, but the currency used. This booklet would be of immense help to the trainees, too.

The union should do something to erase the stigma attached to the profession of seafaring. This could be done by public relations to enlighten the public on various aspects of a seaman's life and career. Since the SIU has been in the van of such a thing, it should take the lead. The MTD and other maritime bodies should be made to assist one and all in this affair.

Union should try and make arrangements with hotels for a room that won't cost an arm and a leg. Most seamen, when they are ready to sleep out, are pretty well broke. In New York, the St. George Hotel was a place you could get a room for \$21.00 a week by just showing your union book. This is no more.

Nylon line and sack cord is being used a lot on ships and a knowledge is required to splice and maintain, and I suggest a course be made available for interested persons. This also could include other things like wire splicing or any other thing on board ship that the person may be lax in.

**S. B. Ferrer**

*San Juan*

Firstly, I like to congratulate our leadership on a job so well done and so skillfully organized.

We are here with one sole purpose of learning what's being done for our future and how our union funds are being spent.

The whole thing covers many uses. First, instruction and education. Second, the need of high intellect in Washington, D.C., and third, as our counselor said "to communicate." Communicate our findings to the rest of our membership who have not been as lucky to attend this conference.

We have come to a stage where a man in the 1940's had the bright foresight to acknowledge the urgent need of representation of our labor movement in Washington, D.C., where a brain staff was mostly needed. As our president, Brother Paul said, "Just a stroke of the pen in Washington could destroy all we have."

Let us keep our ship looking straight to the horizon. Let's keep on punching.

**Marian Lubiejewski**

*New York*

After coming to Piney Point to this conference, I was glad to be part of this great union and leadership.

What I have seen here, I wish every SIU member should be and must be able to see for himself.

I am now on pension, but still active in union matters. I congratulate our president and staff of Piney Point for a job well done.



**Raymond W. Hodges**

*Baltimore*

I have been in the SIU over 26 years. I have learned more about it at Piney Point than I did the rest of the time I have been in the union. I think the conference and vocational and the academic instructors are doing a good job of preparing the trainees for a future life at sea.

When they start the high school course for active seamen I will be one of the first to apply.

I think the educational conference should have been started a few years earlier. We would have been a better informed membership. I think there should be more conferences held in the future.

Everyone able to attend a conference should do so.

**Dennis Maddox**

*Houston*

I left Houston with the thought of this place here as a bunch of old buildings out in the sticks. When I got here it looked like a private country club, or a fancy resort area. I had the feeling that these classes were going to be boring. This is the first time since the 6th grade that I haven't skipped class.

The first day really interested me. I've always liked history, and this history about the American seaman is very interesting. I even went to the library to find out more about our union history.

I even found out later, in the workshops, the meaning of SPAD. I have asked many a man about it, and they didn't really know. The Maritime Defense League contribution fascinated me, also.

The third day was about our contract. I never really read our contract thoroughly, only the part in it that pertained to my specified job. That evening I really read it over.

The fourth day was about the political education. I now know what SPAD is doing for us. We discussed the political actions referred to maritime bills. It, also, was very interesting.

Our constitution interested me also. I am glad that I now know the meaning of it. I'm now glad that I know my rights.

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# 'Wonder Me'

**Peter Gebbia,**  
Baltimore

New Orleans two weeks has been enlightening as well as

I would like to express my wonder for me. Point issue and on the conference wonderful thing they are doing, with these Point is a wonderful place for future SS, teaching them discipline so as to make SIU. It is a stepping stone for the future able to follow orders and better equipped union. come on a ship.

It also gives the young men as the conference is concerned, I think there the deprived ones, to get an education large amount of knowledge to be gained to start in life, and to understand what the older members better equipped to go back all about. tips and try to explain matters to those who know the score and are in doubt.

As for the educational conference, the length of the conference is ideal, long way for our union officials to get be interesting and not so long as to be what the membership thinks of, members on the beach, it will be worth also gives us the privilege to meet to attend one of the future conferences. our officials from all of the ports while here, a member can get to see what have only heard about and have place Piney Point is, and the unlimited opportunity. The conference should be here. If they come for a vacation, they can year in the future. mselves.

**LeRoy Fansl**  
San Francisco

After several days at the Piney Point facilities and crack and cranny, looking into almost every nook and cranny, well enlightened on the background of the from the lower decks of the storage barges, (where the reason for Piney Point. The education mattresses, pipe fittings and supplies of tomorrow receive is great. They are the fire station and under the hooded of the past, present and future. truck, vintage of the 1930. View there should be more of these conferences. harbor, it soon came to me that lot that all the members could learn. Piney was missing was sea gulls. I can see of no reason why the and cry of the gulls of which ten won't be a better grade of seamen. hearing. However, I suppose we for the opportunity to come to Piney Point. Indian crows for a substitute to sphere.

The land and harbor here is v of the best we could have obtained. training center, recreational, police conference delegates have stated, I too am facilities, if we are impressed, pleased to be here. I also intend to return iticians and shop owners will be future. it is also they, too, that we will through dispatch, Brother Hall answered the political people we are trying to dot at him from the floor by a real experience of our people. The ship owners, sp of sea lawyers. All my questions were the new breed of people it will tad explained, from coffee-time, to time-off, of the future. The old seaman, the the three T's, which are important man of the water front bars andmen.

the newer people of World War of our union and the security of our truckers, shopkeepers, they in tu as planned with forethought and by agthe new people who will be edership with ambitious future actions to the sea and union activities that is the industry in business. I know more of dreams. ntions are in the offing and hope all our

I have seen the farm area, whitticipate as we have.

**J. S. Ferro**  
Jacksonville

I can look into the future and, having attended an educational conference with the bay and inlets, the the Harry Lundberg School of Seamanis conference is a move for an old saying, ahead," yes, in a program long overdue. nference we heard the word "old timer"

**E. McKenne**  
San Francisco

I am sure glad that I am a bo covered labor legal issues, contract, Position, pension, welfare, and the God Alour letters, SPAD. Let it be said that we d timers," whether it's in age, sailing, etc., their brothers in their home ports what ned here and what the hopes of the future

This is better than I thought boats are No. 1. And the new farm housing is ing for our SPAD for in the past lots of us passing up what we are fighting for and needed to fight our cause. Let's all book

Also that pond with its waterfaly needed to fight our cause. Let's all book something to see and the trees as ether A, B, or C fall in line for the four gate. And just everything you co one or two weeks of rest for you a, hope that everything brought out in this

And the school boys are sure patrolmen, etc. Let us remember also marching and holding colors mar a "big problem" aboard a ship, it is men and new men is what we atle ones that cause trouble, such things as place, Piney Point, is 4.0. Keep it ers, rusty lockers, no cabinet, mattress, n general it is the condition of the fore-and mess hall. So, as brought out in our

**Dario P. Marti**  
Houston

What I have seen in this confer it is hopeful such educational conferences I believe that coming to this con continued in the future. educational thing that can happen

Seafarers Log

# erful Place for Future Seafarers'

Jr.

views on the Piney nce of 1971. Piney ture seafarers of the our union to better membership of our

of our country, even ucation and a good at organized labor is

ice, it is a wonderful a balanced view of r union activities. It et and talk to all of whom our members never seen or talked eld each and every

er

Point facilities and crack and cranny, ge barges, (where the plies are stored); to d of the old USA fire ing the layout to the one of the things that the smell of salt air we are all used to could import a few round out the atmo-

without a doubt, one ed for our use. As a tical, and retirement ou can bet the pol-impressed also. And ave to educate. The o right, for the good o that we can supply ke to man the ships e rough and tumble dives, gave way to ar II. The farmers, rn are giving way to ated in the ways of s beyond our wildest

ch I have no interest harbor of San Pedro orts in both shipping ay visiting different ings daily for all my

I see what could be area for the retired

ok member so that I ain you can bet I'll

The motel, pool, something I want to

I and all the grass is ou come in past the uld want for a nice nd the better half of

good looking when kes them look like re looking for. This going, I'm for it.

nos

ence at Piney Point: ference is the most to any member.

In 14 days I learned things and differences in opinion on what SPAD means to our organization. I believe that every member of this union should learn what the real meaning and what is the purpose of the union to be involved in political activities.

As for Piney Point, I think that the only way to believe what is going on in here is to be here.

**Adrien Fecteau**  
Seattle

Really I can't find any words in my limited vocabulary strong enough to ever state the opinions that I have of this wonderful place and praise that I have for our President Paul Hall and other officials here at Piney Point.

The farm, motel, cafeteria, recreation room and different schoolrooms, the vessels etc., are just a few that I can mention and above all the facilities for our old timers that are or soon will be on pension.

The prices of room, meals, are so low that I just can't see how it can be done.

Finally I am leaving Piney Point with the knowledge that I now have nothing to worry for the rest of the five years to come.

**Thomas D. Garrity**  
New Orleans

I am always glad to come to Piney Point. For one, this is the best vacation spot I ever seen. The old saying is you are never too old to learn. I enjoyed every minute of the educational conference, and will go away with the satisfaction of learning some of the working of our union.

I would like to say that the personnel cannot be any better for their courtesy to my fellow delegates and myself. The food, excellent, wholesome and well-cooked. The picnic grounds are well set up for summertime use. I never get tired looking at ships, school rooms in Sonny Simmons and other school rooms. The teachers are some of the best in our nation. Was very impressed with our library. Never been in any library. This is a first for me. Had the pleasure of looking at some of the old Logs. Some are well taken care of.

A special bouquet to the teachers of our classes. With the material they had, they did an outstanding job. Many thanks for allowing me to be a guest.

**Kenneth Gahagan**  
Houston

The educational conference has taught me many things that I didn't understand as to the legal issues. Defense is not for pie cards alone but for all members.

I now know why we have political activity and what it means to the labor movement as a whole and to the Seafarers. If they are to live these things are a must. I know what SPAD is and how it helps us to make laws that help us to gain more and keep what we have.

The pension plan has been a sore spot with all

## SEAFARERS LOG



members. I know as of this conference why that it is the way it is and hope that all other members understand it better.

I am sure that all at the conference will leave here knowing the purpose of our school and understand the working of our union better as on a lot of these issues we were in the dark or didn't understand at all.

**F. W. Fulbright**  
Mobile

While attending the SIU Educational Conference, 1971, I was surprised and pleased to observe the thoroughness of training programs for entry ratings. The academic programs are particularly impressive.

The physical plant is well laid out both for training and vacation. The teaching aids and classroom equipment appear to be the very best.

As to the conference itself, I believe that I have learned more about the union in two weeks than in the previous twenty-seven years of membership. A continuing series of conferences might have a beneficial effect on the union educational level and on the relations between leadership and members.

**Joseph Garelo**  
Boston

We were asked to write an essay of our stay and what we learned and felt about our stay at this conference in Piney Point.

The most important subject to me was SPAD. I never knew just what it really was for. By attending this conference, I found out what it really means to all SIU members and I am sure that my shipmates do.

It has proven what it can and will do. If we did not approve of it, we never would have been where we are or achieve what we are after in the coming years.

Piney Point, to me, is unbelievable. It is a must for all SIU members to see. I have learned a lot at my stay here.

**G. Galliano**  
New Orleans

I believe that we are all correct in the conclusion that this conference is necessary. I further am convinced that it has been successful, informative, surprising.

Few of us really had any idea what we were heading to upon leaving our respective parts, and surely, the surprises were pleasant.

One of the less pleasant surprises was the realization of our ignorance, as opposed to stupidity. The stupid ones will remain stupid, but the overwhelming majority of us will leave here happily, infinitely much better informed.

We will be closing our briefcases today for the last time in this conference, but I hope sincerely that it won't be for the last time.

We must keep it open always for in doing so, so will help our minds forever remain open.

**Joseph Gibowicz**  
Baltimore

After these long years of going to sea, I finally received a chance for a conference at Piney Point.

To me this is a far cry from the days when I first started sailing. My only wish is that we could have had these conferences in my day.

As I shall retire shortly, I shall always remember this short two weeks when not only was I able to meet old friends, but learn what it will mean to me when I retire. I have received answers to questions on retirement.

I saw the men who shall take over the duties that I had on the ships.

I leave this school knowing that I am turning over these duties to able and capable men.

HLSS is an excellent establishment and a credit to SIU.

In conclusion I wish to say that I leave Piney Point a much better informed person, and am grateful to the SIU and its membership for making this possible.



# Honor Roll

*These are the men who attended the Seafarers Educational Conference. These are the men whose recommendations will help to shape the union's policies for years to come. These are the men who wrote this special report.*

## Baltimore

B. Browning  
R. Clarke  
J. Cleator  
T. Foster  
J. Gibowicz  
J. Glass  
R. Goodnick  
J. Green  
R. Hodges  
E. Jones  
B. Pomerlane  
R. Ruff  
J. Snyder  
H. Thomas  
J. Winfield  
B. Wilson  
B. Zawacki

## Boston

S. Cieslak  
J. Carello  
E. Riley

## Houston

D. Abraham  
E. C. Barnhill  
C. H. Behrens  
B. Butts  
R. Cotton  
D. R. Creamer  
P. Drozak  
G. Delgado  
R. Gahagan  
T. L. Harrell  
C. Hernandez  
G. Jarvis  
W. Joyner  
B. Kazmierski  
H. Kennedy  
C. Lial  
B. G. Lister  
D. Maddox  
N. Martin  
D. Martinez  
R. McPhillips  
R. R. Michaelis  
J. L. Moncrief  
P. Perry  
H. T. Ruth  
F. Sellman  
J. Stringer  
F. Szoblik  
R. Threatt  
E. Walker  
R. Wilburn

## Jacksonville

W. Bowles  
S. Brown  
L. Denton  
J. Ferro  
D. Fleming  
D. Gibson  
L. Gillain  
W. Graham  
W. Grant  
L. Maham

J. McClenton  
J. Morris  
W. J. Morris  
J. Osteen  
J. Reeves  
J. Sherpinski

## Mobile

J. Barnett  
J. Broadus  
J. Bush  
T. Caylor  
J. Coleman  
J. Dixon  
H. Ducloux  
F. Fullbright  
F. Gomez  
C. Loper  
L. Neira  
H. Roberts  
A. Saxon  
W. Simmons  
A. Smith  
C. Waldrop

## New Orleans

G. Annis  
H. Arceneaux  
W. Barron  
P. Cebbia  
H. Chemel  
J. Cobb  
F. Conforto  
J. F. Fiesel  
L. Fiorentino  
V. J. Fitzgerald  
C. J. Frey  
G. Galliano  
T. Garrity  
E. Hoitt  
P. L. Hunt  
T. Lewis  
L. Mazur  
V. Pizzitolo  
N. Savoie  
W. Simmons  
I. J. Sherman  
B. Stephens  
M. Stewart  
F. Stirk, Jr.  
J. P. Stroud  
W. Tank  
J. Thomas  
S. Wilson  
C. Young

## New York

W. Anderson  
M. Bass  
A. Bernstein  
I. Bouzin  
W. Brabham  
E. Casey  
J. Collins  
W. DeFrancisco  
J. Devine  
W. Donovan  
A. Ferrara  
B. Fields

L. Goodwin  
W. Grosvenor  
J. Hall  
J. Harrobin  
L. Hogan  
R. Johnson  
E. Joseph  
W. Koflowitch  
G. Komminos  
F. Lebda  
I. Logart  
M. Lubiejewski  
W. Mackey  
E. B. McAuley  
G. McCartney  
H. McFall  
J. McGelland  
A. Moore  
W. Morris  
O. Myers  
A. Nelson  
B. Nuckols  
M. O'Toole  
J. Parrish  
J. Preshong  
P. Pron  
E. Robinson  
O. Rokka  
J. Rosario  
W. Royes  
A. Rummel  
S. Sanders  
I. Sclease  
J. Sweeney  
B. Varela  
H. Wilson  
B. Zumkley

## Norfolk

S. Arales  
H. Bennett  
L. Drew  
B. Elliott  
B. Jackson  
L. Price  
A. Sawyer  
G. Spencer  
T. Stubbs  
J. Wilson

## Philadelphia

D. Backovitz  
J. Bergeria  
T. Brennan  
S. Crawford  
V. Domingo  
J. Fay  
P. Herrera  
T. Kelley  
R. Kirkwood  
C. Marshall  
J. McHugh  
F. Pasaluk  
E. Toner

## San Francisco

D. Barry  
D. Bartlett  
E. W. Bent

A. Bertrand  
E. Davidson  
F. Drozak  
L. Fansler  
R. Figuera  
P. Gallegos  
J. W. Givens  
B. Goose  
J. Hart  
H. Houston  
E. Johnston  
W. King  
E. Lamb  
E. McKenna  
W. McMillion  
J. Mendez  
C. F. Nysla  
O. Rosales  
S. Rothschild  
R. Schrum  
M. Steen  
R. Sullivan  
D. Ticer  
H. Walters  
R. Wood  
J. Wright

## San Juan

L. Carbone  
J. Castell  
P. Fernandez  
S. B. Ferrer  
B. Lasso  
G. Morales  
P. Moran  
F. Munoz  
A. Rodriguez

## Seattle

J. Allen  
E. Brewer  
J. Dawson  
P. DiCapua  
A. Fecteau  
P. Greenwood  
W. Robinson  
J. Ryan  
S. Troy  
A. Waters  
H. Whitman

## Tampa

F. Cunningham  
E. R. Harrison  
R. Hartley  
F. Reid  
C. Tanner

## Wilmington

R. Anderson  
J. M. Ard  
R. Byrd  
C. Canales  
I. K. Coats  
R. Knoles  
T. Navarre  
E. Perry  
G. Quinones  
R. Schaeffer  
G. Brown