

**ILA, ILWU &  
TEAMSTERS**

# Unity on the Waterfront



*Transportation Leaders Sign Historic Pact: (Left to right) ILWU President James Spinosa, Teamsters President Jim Hoffa and ILA President John Bowers, holding the partnership agreement.*

(WASHINGTON, DC)--The two powerful longshore unions have joined with the Teamsters in a pact to make North American seaports "wall-to-wall union."

James Spinosa, president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) on the West Coast, and John Bowers, president of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) on the East Coast, Gulf Coast and the Great Lakes, told Teamster President James Hoffa their longshoremen will be supporting the Teamsters' national effort to organize harbor truck drivers.

After two years of planning, the historic partnership agreement was announced at the AFL-CIO convention in December 2001. George Cashman, Teamsters union port division director, said the agreement brings together the three labor unions that control more than 95% of the freight that is moved in the country.

"We are sending a message to shipping lines unlike what they have ever heard," Cashman said. "It will not be in one port. It will be in all ports." Cashman added that the agreement between the longshore unions and the Teamsters guarantees the three unions will honor each other's traditional jurisdiction. The Teamsters have been engaged in a

slow, methodical process to organize port truck drivers across the nation. These truckers are considered to be at the bottom of the wage scale in what is generally an industry of well-paid blue-collar workers.

The ILA, the ILWU and the Teamsters have agreed to support each other if job actions are necessary. International Longshore and Warehouse Union President James Spinosa told a rally in Long Beach that if Teamster-affiliated drivers set up a legal picket line at any West Coast port over wages, benefits or hours of service, "our members will not cross" the picket line.

Celebrating the new unity, Teamsters President James P. Hoffa has offered to attend ILWU negotiations with the Pacific Maritime Association.

John Bowers, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, said the alliance would work to ensure that "anything that moves into or out of the ports is 100% unionized."

The power of the new partnership should not be underestimated, said Cashman, the Teamster leader. "If port drivers had been represented by the Teamsters two years ago, the confrontation leading to the arrest of the longshoremen known as the 'Charleston Five' never would have happened."

