Support Pours in for Renewed Coast Strike

ILWU Asks for Help South of the Border

SAN FRANCISCO — A request for support to help tighten up the West Coast strike was made this week to major longshoremen in Mexico by vice president William Chester. Chester, who recently visited a number of Mexicali branches and their leadership, made his request in the form of a letter explaining the status of the West Coast strike.

He spoke of the 100-day strike for better wages, working conditions and job security, that ended with government intervention — the Taft-Hartley injunction — forced ILWU longshoremen and clerks back on the job.

It was noted that the union negotiated around-the-clock recently to try to reach an agreement but a deadlock was reached and orders were given when employers refused to consider certain basic wage and job security demands.

COMPELLING ARBITRATION

“We now are on strike from the Mexican border to the Pacific,” Chester wrote. “Now we are again threatened by government intervention. One of the reasons President Nixon has asked Congress to force us back on the job with a threat of huge fines unless we stay on it. It would attempt to send men back to work under a form of compulsory arbitration rather than the free and voluntary arbitration that historically is no good for working people.

Noting that both the ILWU and the Mexican longshore unions have always pledged solidarity and support during a strike, Chester said, “We need your support to tighten our strike and make it more effective. With this in mind we respectfully urge you to contact your brother longshoremen in the Port of Ensenada to let them know that we need your help and support that can.

“Naturally we understand that you function under your own laws — many of which are strict — and we would never ask you to break your laws, therefore we ask for your support that would not endanger your security or that of your union.”

ENSENADA CARGO

“A message has been sent to ILWU and you can do to help us that would not endanger your union or your personal security will be deeply appreciated. With the help and support of the working class here at home and abroad, we are sure we will win, in spite of legal threats back home from both employers and government. “We will never forget your hospital- ity and kindness during my recent visit to your country,” Chester concluded, and thanked in advance for anything you can do. Best fraternal greetings from all of your officers and myself.”

Poll Shows Americans Lose Faith in Nixonomics

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — A large segment of the public does not trust their government’s ability to run the economy successfully. That’s the finding of a poll taken by University of Michigan team recently.

The survey showed that 61 percent of the 1,200 people interviewed saw no hope that Nixon’s policies would lead to improvement in the unemployment picture.

North Cal Women Pledge Strike Aid

SAN FRANCISCO — Continuing support to the ILWU strike, the program of the ILWU was pledged by the Northern California District Council of Auxiliaries in its meeting January 15 in San Francisco. Delegates from Stockton, Oakland and San Francisco attended the all-day meeting hosted by Auxiliary 18, San Francisco.

Anticipating important legislative action on the part of ILWU Northern California unions, the auxiliary council sent a check of $25.00 for the legislative work to the ILWU Northern California District Council.

Teamsters Oppose US Role in Dock Strike

MIAMI — Opposition to government intervention to end the West Coast longshore strike was voiced by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters’ general executive board at its meeting here. The statement follows:

“We always have been and still are opposed to the principles of the longshoremen disputes by the process of agreements imposed by the will of the government rather than by the agreement of the parties directly involved. We believe that the basic principles of industrial democracy can be preserved only through direct agreement of the parties or through procedures to which the parties have agreed voluntarily.”

Canadian Area Pledges Aid to Coast Strikers

VANCOUVER, B.C. — The ILWU Cana- dian Area Executive Board has pledged full and unqualified support to striking longshoremen on the West Coast.

This came in response to a letter from the Canadian Area Board of Directors, Canadian Area President Donald G. Rice, Burnaby, to the striking longshoremen to plan action “to assist in bringing about a successful termination of the problems of workmen acceptable to the membership of the Longshore Division in the USA.”

DIVERTED CARGO

The Coast Strike Committee urged Canadian members not to handle cargo diverted from the USA to be loaded or unloaded at British Columbia for further transshipment to or from the USA.

The Coast Strike Committee noted that such a request might impose “legal, financial or social burdens upon our Canadian brothers.”

The Committee added that the Longshore Canadian Area Executive Cen- tral Union will give full support to their Canadian brothers if any serious problems develop.

The Committee’s letter to Cana- dians said: “In view of the proposal for the Co-strike to divert cargo in fulfillment of the strike we urge the Canadian Longshore Division to take similar action…as soon as possible.”

STRATEGY

In addition to sending full support for their American brothers, the Cana- dians said that they will imple- ment their best ever Canadian Area Executive Board meeting again with an international officer where they can discuss their strategy “best calculated to bring maximum pres- sure to bear on our mutual employers to end a just wage and working pe- riod.”

At the time The Dispatcher went to press, plans were underway for vice president Chester to fly to Vancouver to discuss this strategy.

UE Pledges Aid

The United Electrical Workers (UE) has promised full support to the ILWU longshoremen with the resumption of the dock strike, and has attacked President Nixon’s attempt to win legislation to break the strike.

UE secretary James Matles met Monday, January 24 with the Local 10 and Local 34 Strike Com- mittee to convey this pledge of support.

On the same day, UE president Albert J. Flugel called the following resolution of the House and Senate Labor Committee: “Speaking on behalf of my union, I sharply protest President Nixon’s attempt to pass legislation which would use Congress as a strikebreaker to order striking West Coast longshoremen back to work.”

“I also sharply condemn the proposal for compulsory arbitration of the issues of the strike and unprecedented interference with the rights of union members and free collective bargaining.”

“IT is a great injustice to penal- ize the men of the dock strike for the recalcitrance of the shipowners who refuse to meet their workers’ just demands.”

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