Strike Enters 5th Week

Container Work Is Main Issue

SAN FRANCISCO—The longshore strike goes into its fifth week as this issue of The Dispatcher goes to press. All West Coast ports are down, the pickets are still walking, with approximately 340 ships idled up and down the coast.

In an exchange of letters last week between Harry Bridges, chairman of the ILWU Coast Negotiating Committee and PMA president Edmund J. Flynn, Bridges stipulated: "That the ILWU is willing to resume negotiations with the Pacific Maritime Association providing that the Container Freight Station Agreement, as it applies on and after June 30, 1971, is continued in full force and effect. . . ."

The texts of the letters follow:

Mr. Harry Bridges, President International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union
150 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Harry:

We are cooperated by the failure of the parties to resume negotiations after the June 30 breakoff. Others, such as Secretary of Commerce Stans and Governor Egan, are equally concerned.

PMA requests a resumption of Coast negotiations on July 28 or 29. Only by meeting across the table can the parties reach agreement on the terms of a new Agreement.

Very truly yours,
/s/ Ed J. Flynn
Edmund J. Flynn, President

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MEN AT WORK — Not on the "front," but at the many tasks involved in a 15,000-man strike. From the top, rank and file play a role at Local 10 strike meetings; Local 13 members mount unique water patrol to check out the Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor; and Local 12 men post the latest copy of their bulletin, "The Breeze."

Coast Committee

Ward and Huntsinger Elected

SAN FRANCISCO—William Ward, Local 13, and Fred Huntsinger, Local 8, were sworn in Friday, July 23 for two-year terms as members of the Coast Labor Relations Committee.

In an election held July 12-14, Huntsinger defeated incumbent William Forrester, Local 81, Port Gamble, by a down-to-the-wire vote of 3969 to 3940, and went on to represent the Washington and Oregon areas. Ward, the incumbent, defeated Art Almeida, Local 13, by a vote of 4211 to 3862.

Thus, re-balloting in the Coast Committee election, after the first vote was declared null and void by International president Harry Bridges, did not materially affect the outcome of the election. The first vote was also won by Huntsinger and Ward.

The first ballot had been challenged last month by Almeida on the grounds Local 13 members who are "B" men had been denied the right to vote, and members of Hawaii Local 142 were permitted to vote, although such election in no way affected their contracts. Bridges upheld the challenge and ordered a new election.

(Complete vote tally on page 3.)