ILWU Strategy Committee Recommends Return to Work

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or not the east and west coast longshoremen had national health and safety. The union was notified that a hearing would be held by the board Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. The Coast Negotiating Committee voted to send representatives to the hearing before the board, along with the union attorneys.

At the hearing Tuesday morning, the union stated its position as to the course of negotiations and the rejection by the Federal Government of the union's position that the strike, while creating a great deal of inconvenience and loss of profits to shippers and others, did not create a situation that imperiled national health and safety. The union's representatives and attorneys mentioned the union action in seeing it that military and other cargoes kept moving; that ships and diverted cargoes were being handled in Mexican, Alaskan and BC ports; and that in fact, the Council to stop the State of Hawaii had kept working.

It was agreed at the board meeting in the morning that after the labor's strike, impaired not appear with a written statement as to their positions.

The Coast Negotiating Committee met Tuesday afternoon to develop a program of action which is recommend to the Locals now on strike.

(1) To have the Regional Direct to tell them to stand by for further in tended to the Locals now on strike for that by phone to drive them to the clause, if and when a Taft-Hartley injunction is issued.

(2) It was decided that the Commi mittee's recommendation would be for the Locals to return to work and not to have a T-H injunction.

How Does Taft-Hartley Work

The Taft-Hartley Act was passed in 1947 in a period of hysteria over the "power of big labor."

In fact, after the war, the workers who had kept their no-strike pledge during the conflict — and had watched businesses evade price and profit controls continually — were demanding their fair share.

Three and a half million workers were on the bricks at various times in 1945, and 4.5 million struck for their long overdue demands in 1946.

The basic reason was the fact that while wages had been held to a rate of 15 percent of the 1941 scale, prices had soared by 45 percent and profits by 250 percent.

So Congress wrote Taft-Hartley in 1947.

President Nixon explains his views to ILWU president Bridges of Portland meeting.

Nixon Uses Strikebreak Act

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"The Strike Strategy Committee urges all locals, in the event of any disagreement or dispute, to use the grievance machinery as provided for under these contracts."

It was signed by Harry Bridges, Chairman, Coast Strike Strategy Committee.

The committee's program, the report said, was that "the return to work under a Taft-Hartley injunction is for the 80-day period, with a program of resuming the strike, if necessary, after the 80 days have elapsed."

Meantime, the letter added, contacts will be made with the East Coast ILA, "... and meetings set up in order that joint strike strategy may be formulated, and then implemented at appropriate times and places."

DEADLOCK

When negotiations were recessed on the morning of Monday, October 4, the key issues on which the parties were deadlocked included the guaranteed wage proposal, the work of stuffing containers on and off docks, and certain demands on wages, welfare, vacations, grievances, machinery and length of contract.

Pensions and manning scales and procedures had been tentatively settled.

Events leading to the current situation included:

- Resumption of negotiations on August 25, with intensive bargaining sessions, including nights and weekends.
- The national strike of the membership, August 25, with intensive bargaining sessions, including nights and weekends.
- A dramatic meeting between President Nixon and ILWU president Bridges and PMA president Ed Flynn at the Benson Hotel in Portland. After final negotiating session deadlocked, the strike committee met to discuss future strategy.

The bill was written sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph, page by page by lawyers of the Association of Manufacturers, according to New York's Representative Duncan. The "cooling-off" provision was to permit the President to "call into being" the Wage Stabilization Board.

The bill was signed by the President, the most important part of the bill, of course, is the 'cooling-off' provision.

This section of the bill allows the President to, if he believes a strike up, "if permitted to continue, imperil the national health and safety," appoint a board of inquiry into the strike issues.

Upon receipt of a report from the board within such time as the President may prescribe, the President may direct the Attorney General to petition any US District Court with jurisdiction to issue an injunction against the strike if the court finds that it:

- Affects an industry with a substantial part thereof engaged in trade, commerce, transportation, communication among the several states or with foreign nations; and:
- "Will imperil the national health or safety."

Unless a settlement is reached earlier, the injunction is in force for 80 days.