Food for Pakistan Loaded

UPI, New York Times

Striking Seattle longshoremen yesterday loaded bulgur wheat on the American vessel Silver Lark, bound for Pakistan to relieve food shortages.

Union officials had agreed earlier to load vessels carrying food to the war refugees.

This was the second relief ship loaded by Seattle longshoremen since the beginning of the West Coast strike 47 days ago.

An official estimated 90 members of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union were involved in the operation.

Meanwhile, union president Harry Bridges has urged locals “to intensify and expedite” bargaining on local issues. He also said the union’s negotiating committee would meet around the middle of this month to review progress made on local talks.

Meanwhile, Hawaii's sugar and pineapple plantations, which produce crops worth $400 million a year, are scrambling for chartered ships to move cargo backlogged by the shipping strike.

Hawaiian longshoremen, who also belong to the I.L.W.U., are not on strike because they are under a separate contract.

But the normal flow of shipping between Hawaii and Western United States ports has been cut off by picketing since the strike began, and raw sugar and canned pineapple have been straining available storage facilities in the islands.

The 23 Hawaiian sugar plantations normally ship their raw product to the refinery that they own at Crockett, Calif., but the refinery closed earlier this month when the last supplies of cane sugar were processed.

The situation seemed desperate for the Hawaiian sugar planters until last week, when arrangements were made to move some sugar and molasses by charter ships to eastern and gulf coast ports, which are not affected by the strike.

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