Teamster, ILWU Merger in Works?

Top of the Morning

INTERNATIONAL

RUSSIA used the hot line to warn President Nixon that renewed air raids over North Vietnam could jeopardize U.S. plans for a Moscow summit meeting. Page A-4.


NATIONAL

A FEDERAL JUDGE refused to order new public hearings on environmental issues surrounding the proposed trans-Alaska oil pipeline. Page A-5.

IT WAS 42 below yesterday at International Falls, Minn., and that was the way thermometers looked in the nation’s midst. Page A-2.

FILM PRODUCERS are partly to blame for luring teenagers into running away from home, said a witness before a Senate subcommittee. Page A-4.

A STUDENT who died of a methadone overdose was a homicide victim, said a judge, who ordered the youth’s doctor to appear on murder charges. Page A-2.

THE HEAD of the Massachusetts Medical Society denied that up to 40 per cent of America’s doctors are making a “financial” killing.” Page A-2.

A PLANE carrying West German Chancellor Willy Brandt and an American jetliner nearly collided, an air control group said. Page A-2.


O’Brien Opens Up Against Wallace

BY R. W. APPLE JR.

The New York Times

KANSAS CITY — Lawrence F. O’Brien, the Democratic national chairman, yesterday opened a frontal assault on the presidential candidacy of Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama, all but ruling him out of the party.

“A vote for George Wallace is a

PUBLIC OPINION POLL:

GOV. GEORGE WALLACE
All but ruled out of the party

DEMO CHIEF LAWRENCE O’BRIEN
“A vote for Richard Nixon”

Pact May Save Coast From New Dock Tieup

BY DON PAGE

P-I Marine Writer

Harry Bridges’ Longshoremen’s Union and the Teamsters Union appear to have reached some agreement that may save the West Coast from another long dock tieup.

The Washington Post reported last night that Bridges and Teamsters president Frank Fitzsimmons have signed a letter of intent to merge.

There is cynicism among the Longshoremen that such an agreement can be carried out, even if Bridges and Fitzsimmons have agreed on principles. Any merger agreement would have to be approved by the membership, and one longshoreman commented last night: “The bulk of the guys don’t want to merge with anybody. They’re afraid the Teamsters would swallow us up.”

In San Francisco, Bridges declined comment.

However, it is generally agreed that Bridges returned from a hurried trip to Washington, D.C., with a mysterious “letter in his pocket.”

During Bridges’ flying trip to the capital, he conferred with top Teamster leaders, U.S. Labor Secretary James Hodgson. Returning to San Francisco yesterday noon, Bridges called his coast negotiating committee into emergency session.

The union commented that the meeting with the employers’ Maritime Association Association and representatives of the Teamsters.

Merger or not, any agreement between the Longshoremen and Teamsters on handling of cargo could pave the way to settlement of the long contract dispute between the Longshoremen and employers.

As part of that contract the Longshoremen have asked jurisdiction over all stuffing and unstuffing of cargo vans. Teamster members now do some of that work, and Teamster leaders have warned employers privately that they will not let their members’ jobs be traded away.

Failure to break this impasse triggered the Longshoremen’s 10-day tieup of West Coast docks last summer, and Bridges has threatened resumption of that strike Monday morning, Jan. 17.

If Teamsters and Longshoremen actually have reached some understanding that will square away the van-stuffing issue, then union and employers should be able to hammer out wage terms of a new contract, subject to Pay Board review.

Redistrict Priority Rejected

BY SHELBY SCATES

P-I Political Writer

U.S. District Judge William Beeks yesterday refused to put the State Legislature under orders to pass no other laws until it adopts a plan for redistricting the state.

The ruling wasn’t much of a surprise. But the force with which Judge Beeks emphasized the arguments against such an injunction, and the stress he placed on the