Thousands Still on Strike in Region; No End in Sight

Associated Press

Longshoremen, carpenters and rail workers remained on strike yesterday in the Pacific Northwest with no immediate end in sight for the three-day-old walkout.

The strikers directly affect some 100,000 workers. An undetermined number of others, including truckers, are expected to join in sympathy.

The West Coast striker strike has put 25 ports in the three states and put 18,000 longshoremen out of work.

In Oregon and Washington there are 4,200 longshoremen involved in the strike.

In San Francisco, the union and the Pacific Maritime Association said there was no indication when talks would resume. They broke off last Wednesday night, then the strike started.

Longshoremen paused in their dock planking yesterday to honor the man who died 9 years ago in the strike. His first war recognition for their hero.

About 300,000 men gathered in the traditional "Bloody Thursday" ceremony in San Francisco at the spot on Mission Street south of the Ferry Building where two strikers were shot and killed in a clash with police July 5, 1934.

Ships bringing cargo to the West Coast have been diverted to ports in Vancouver, B.C., and Ensenada, Mexico, but neither part is equipped to handle such volume. More than 50 ships are waiting to unload in British Columbia.

The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union is holding a two-year contract with 65 cents an hour, the first year and 75 cents the second. The basic wage now is $4.25. The union also wants a 10-cent raise every six months, which would amount to a $1 an hour raise in the final year of the contract.

The Carpenters Union is striking members of the Association of Western Carpenters and Millwrights in Oregon. Association members handle most of the heavy construction in the state and employ an estimated 3,000 carpenters. No talks are scheduled.

The union is negotiating with independent employers in Oregon and southwestern Washington, and the Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland, which employs 3,000 carpenters.

Longest labor dispute in the Pacific Northwest is the strike by 2,600 pulp and paper workers against Weyerhaeuser Co. plants in Everett, Collinwood and Longview, Wash., and Springfield, Ore. It started May 6.

Negotiations on a new contract broke off after a walkout last Saturday, the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers reported. The talks had resumed Thursday after breaking off previously in June.

The union said Weyerhaeuser's offers were too far from satisfactory, especially on the pension plan.

In a show of committee negotiations: AWPPW officials said they were recommending rejection of an offer by Fibreboard Corp. and would request parole authority. Fibreboard employs 7,000 workers in Portland, Sumner, Wash., and three plants in California.

Some pulp and paper workers are voting today on a three-year contract offer by Boise-Euroi Corp., covering four mills in Oregon and Washington.

The contract offers a raise of 3 cents an hour over six years, plus large hikes in the pension plan. For example, a mill worker who previously would have received a $1.25 raise, would now receive a $2.00 raise. The pension plan would now include a $1,000 retirement benefit.

The contract was to be voted on Saturday night, March 15, when the previous contract expired.