

LABOR RADIO COMMITTEE  
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Station KRSC; 10:15 pm  
Speaker: Jerry Tyler and others (TAPE TRANSCRIPTION)

DISCLAIMER: as previously

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. The hottest story in local labor circles is the strike of the ILWU Cannery Workers Union, local 7-c, against the lock out of their union by the Alaska Salmon Industry. We won't say anymore about it....we'll let a man directly involved in the fight tell you the story. Here's Ernesto Mangaoang, Business Agent of ILWU local 7-c.....

ERMIE: The chips are down. For too long we have tried to be reasonable with the Alaska Salmon Industry. And for too long they have tried to push us around, have tried to ignore us, have tried to lock us out of our jobs. We gave them their last chance las Tuesday. And they told us late Tuesday afternoon that they would refuse to bargain with us, they were determined to lock us out of our jobs. And on Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock our pickets were on the job.

Shortly after this we read a statement put out by the Alaska Salmon Industry. This statement said that our picket lines constituted an effort to force the industry to recognize A NEW GROUP of employees! I can think of nothing more ridiculous for any member of the Alaska Salmon Industry to say. They know full well that the membership of local 7-c, ILWU, is the same membership with which they have been bargaining and signing contracts for nearly 15 years. A "new group" of employees indeed. As to our "unknown" membership, which the statement also mentions, we might remind the industry that that membership is the very same membership which voted six to one against the attempted raid on our jurisdiction last year by the AFL....Yes, the industry is fooling no-one by such a ridiculous statement. They

know us well and for a long time. And they will know us even better before we are finished with them in this fight.

At the present time we are picketing every pound of Alaska bound cannery supplies we can find. We have pickets dispatched to points as far away as Blaine, Bellingham, and Astoria. And our people in Portland, Oregon, are tying up all cannery supplies there. Regarding cannery supplies which slipped away before our picket lines were established. Only a small amount actually escaped. We have agreed with the Alaska Steamship Company that any cannery supplies enroute to Alaska will not be picketed until after they are unloaded. We did that because that cargo was mixed in with other Alaska cargo. Any cargo which might have escaped in other ships or on tenders will be picketed everywhere in Alaska where we have allies. And mind you, we have many allies.

We are confident of victory in this battle. We do not go into such actions unless we are certain we can win. We know we will win because we are in the right. The industry is trying, after 15 years of recognizing us, to lock us out from our jobs. We have the support of all ILWU locals here, in Canada and in Alaska. We have support from the International Fishermen and Allied Workers, the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association, the Marine Cooks and Stewards and other powerful allies.

In addition to these allies we have another very powerful friend. We refer now to the resident cannery workers, those who live in Alaska. All our former sister locals in the FIA in Alaska are supporting us, and we are confident they will soon join us in the ILWU family. In addition to these Alaskan locals of FIA, we have the sworn support of the biggest resident local in Alaska, the local 46 of the International Fishermen and Allied Workers. This powerful union has signed a mutual aid pact with us. It was signed on May 3rd here

in Seattle by their representative, Joe Washalook. You may have seen the story in the Seattle Times last night which stated that Joe Washalook had changed his mind. Well, to prove how false that story is, here is Joe Washalook right at my side. I will let him tell you what happened, let him tell you how that newsstory originated.

WASHALOOK: My people are simple and honest people. We believe in telling the truth. We do not believe in saying one thing when we mean another. I was awakened early this morning by a man who took me to a government office and then to a lawyers office. There I met some people I thought were good union people. They gave me a piece of paper to sign. This paper was full of lawyers language and I was confused. I did not know what the words on that paper meant. So these people told me it was an agreement which meant they were going to support my union in the fight to get a decent contract. I believed them and I signed that paper. Then I found out what that paper really meant. That paper meant that I had agreed that me and my people would go back on our pledge with the ILWU cannery workers. When I found this out, I went back to these people who had lied to me, with witnesses, and told them I did not mean to sign what that paper said. I know the ILWU cannery workers would not desert me and my people. And me and my people will not desert them. We will stand by our pledge with the ILWU until both of us have a decent contract. And until that time we will not can salmon. The story which in the newspaper is not the truth.

ERRIN: There is the answer to the story in the newspaper and there is the answer to those industry stooges who would try to break up the united front of cannery workers, here and in Alaska, against the Alaska Salmon Industry. We fully realize this may be a long, tough battle. But our membership is ready for such a fight.

They have been eager to take the industry on for a long time. And they know that with the allies we have, we will not lose. All we are asking is the right to return, as a union, and under a decent contract, to the jobs which have been ours for the past 15 years.

TYLER: Now that's the picture of the fight against the lock-out of their union by the Alaska Salmon Industry, ladies and gentlemen, told to you by official spokesmen of the ILWU cannery workers union, local 7-c. These men have forged a real united front for the first time in years with the cannery workers who live in Alaska. They've formed something similar to the joint action committees the maritime workers have been operating.....where they all hang together until they all get agreements.....and then they all go to work together. Naturally the Alaska Salmon Industry recognizes that such a united front will win this fight for the cannery workers. And naturally the Industry will try all in it's power to break that unity.

For that reason we want to call special attention to all fishermen to the following facts. All fishermen, attention: A rumor has been spread on the waterfront that the ILWU, in signing this mutual assistance pact with resident cannery workers of the International Fishermens Union, is attempting to take away their jurisdiction. This is absolutely not true. We have read that mutual pact. And there is not one word in it about affiliation, charters or jurisdiction. As Bill Gettings, regional Director of the ILWU says: All this amounts to is agreement between the ILWU cannery workers and the IFAWA cannery workers to stand together in a fight against the Alaska Salmon Industry for the benefit of the people who pay the dues in both organizations. As far as local 46 of IFAWA affiliating with any one goes....that's up to them. They can go

AFL, AFL, Independent or remain IFAWA...whatever they decide to do is their own business. As far as the ILWU is concerned, we have no intentions of offering them a charter or trying to influence them in any way. All we are concerned with is winning this fight by standing together with them. And any attempts to try to make a jurisdictional fight at this time is playing right into the hands of the Salmon Industry. Anyone who starts such jurisdictional nonsense...well, watch him. He's doing the job of the Industry.

So there you are, ladies and gentlemen. We'll report again on this battle of the ILWU cannery workers union to break the Industry lock out and get back on the jobs they've held for 15 years. And the fight of resident cannery workers to get a decent contract.

Don't forget next Tuesday night we have a broadcast for you from the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association.

Incidentally, Monday night is the deadline for strike action by the International Woodworkers of America in the Pacific Northwest. Latest reports we have received state that no agreement has been reached. Unless agreement is reached by midnight Monday night....it will mean the first big lumber strike in the Pacific Northwest in nearly 15 years.

Today at the Marine Cooks and Stewards regular union meeting we transcribed some of the remarks of the president of that union, Hugh Lydon. We'll save it for a later date.

REMARKS FROM UNISON would like to take this opportunity to greet the new officers of the Seattle Branch of the National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards, installed today. The new port agent is Charles Nichols, the new patrolmen are Bob Ward and Adair Sims. The outgoing port agent, who declined to run again for office this year is Joe Harris. He's a man well respected on the waterfront and

his absence is going to be strongly felt. He received one of the most outstanding ovations we've heard in years at today's meeting of the union when the membership voiced their thanks for his long years of service.

Well, our time is up. And until next Tuesday night at this same time, same station, good night and thanks for listening.