

The DISPATCHER

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Thumbs Down on 'Final Offer'

Sugar-Pine Gear Up for Strike

HONOLULU — With sugar and pineapple negotiations going on simultaneously, Hawaii ILWU members are gearing up their union for any eventuality.

Both sugar and pine agreements expire January 31, with the basic demands in the area of job security, wages, plus increased fringe benefits.

The key demand is that laid-off workers be included in an industry-wide job pool, and be assured of continued income while new jobs are being found.

The sugar and pine negotiating committees are working together in a Statewide Mobilization Committee. In the event of a strike, this committee will become the Joint Sugar-Pine Strike Strategy Committee (JSSC).

A message to all division directors early this month, the Sugar-Pine Mobilization Committee addressed each division to "hold appropriate leadership meetings before Christmas to make sure that all unit division Strike Strategy Committees are set up, that all union members understand their responsibilities."

Local 15 is also preparing a special program to orient new members to the meaning of a strike, and their responsibilities.

Season's Greetings
From the ILWU International
officers and Dispatcher staff

HARRY BRIDGES
president

LOUIS GOLDBLATT
secretary-treasurer

WILLIAM CHESTER
vice-president

GEORGE MARTIN
vice-president

SIDNEY ROGER
editor

93.1% Vote 'No'

New Talks As Deadline Approaches

SAN FRANCISCO — West Coast ILWU longshoremen and clerks buried the employers' "last offer" by 14 to 1 in an avalanche of "NO" votes.

The tally in this election, conducted by the NLRB at all California, Oregon and Washington ports, told its own story: "No" — 10,072; "Yes" — 746. There were 271 challenged votes and 24 spoiled ballots. The score was 93.1 percent to reject!

With the vote completed and counted on Friday, December 17, the ILWU Coast Negotiating Committee reconvened here Monday, Dec. 20, and began talks with the PMA.

The committee was negotiating against a deadline of December 26, the day after the Taft-Hartley injunction expires — when the West Coast dockers can resume the strike that was halted by government intervention.

ILWU president Bridges, chairman of the Negotiating Committee, stated that if no substantial progress is made by that date "then all bets are off."

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