

Negotiating Committee Recommends:

Vote 'NO' on PMA's 'Last Offer'



Coast Longshore Negotiating Committee met last week to discuss strike strategy.

Parties Resume Talks

SAN FRANCISCO — The ILWU Coast Negotiating Committee has recommended that longshoremen and clerks vote "NO" on the employers' last offer.

After five days of intensive discussions the Negotiating Committee met last Saturday with the PMA to explore whether a settlement is possible and if negotiations should be resumed.

As *The Dispatcher* went to press, another meeting with the employer body was in progress. These were the first meetings since October 4.

The final offer, presented last week to President Nixon's board of inquiry, was almost exactly the same as the final package on the table when talks broke off October 4, and the President set off Taft-Hartley machinery that forced strikers back to work for 80 days.

ALL 'A' AND 'B' ELIGIBLE

All registered "A" and "B" men who worked for a PMA employer during the payroll quarter ending June 26 are eligible to vote. Pensioners and casuals cannot vote.

Voting will take place at all ports on December 14 and 15. It will be conducted by the NLRB. (Procedures, eligibility, times and places are all outlined on page 8 of this issue of *The Dispatcher*.)

(Meanwhile, Local 142 longshoremen in Hawaii, who had given 14 days' notice to their employers and were ready to strike on December 5, were continuing to work on a day to day basis.)

The full Coast Negotiating Committee, in addition to recommending that members vote "NO" on the employers' final offer, also adopted the program worked out by ILWU president Bridges and ILA president Gleason. (See *Dispatcher*, November 5.)

This referred to a three point program, including a common national agreement on handling containers; a common contract expiration date; and plans to insure that negotiated gains are not taken away under Nixon's Phase II program.

The committee was also discussing whether the coast dock strike should be resumed when the injunction is lifted, though not before New Year, unless a satisfactory agreement can be reached.

—Continued on Page 6

Exec Board Raps Nixon's Policies

SAN FRANCISCO — The ILWU International Executive Board, meeting here November 22-23, delivered a stinging rebuke in a Statement of Policy on Wage/Price Controls.

"The idea that wage and price controls will have any real beneficial impact on inflation is false and misleading. It will not create new jobs, will not increase purchasing power; the rich will get richer and the poor, poorer. . . ." (The full text of statement is on Page 4.)

The ILWU International Executive Board is the body responsible for conducting union business and implementing policy in between conventions.

All members of the Board were present, including Hawaii Local 142 Board member Elmer Lau, who was not present at the last meeting due to an automobile accident.

The Board heard reports from the four titled officers, discussed financial and inter-union affairs, and debated matters of long range union policy.

In addition to an extensive report on the financial status of the union, secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt also reported on the progress of work on the new International building. Goldblatt said that the International officers have met with the architect and contractor to plan savings in the cost of the building.

Of interest to the Executive Board was the amount of contributions received to aid the longshore strike. LWU locals contributed over \$174,000, other unions contributed close to \$78,000, and individuals contri-

buted over \$1,300, for a total contribution of more than \$253,000.

Well over half of the money has already been sent to locals where the need was greatest. The Board discussed distribution of the balance of the contributions, and it was decided that this problem would have to be met by the Coast Negotiating Committee.

In addition to the sums reported, a number of locals solicited financial aid on their own, which was not included in the total.

STRIKE REPORT

President Bridges' Report dealt with the longshore strike and the

resumption of work under the 80-day Taft-Hartley injunction.

He said that the longshore and clerk membership is being advised to vote "No" on the employers' last offer, at an NLRB-run election, to be held December 14-15.

The Board also heard a discussion of the recent trip to the Far East by several members of the Negotiating Committee from the Northwest—a trip dealing with problems of grain exports from Northwest states.

It was agreed that no commitment was made to anyone concerning grain shipments if and when the strike is resumed.

—Continued on Page 5

Pine, Sugar Talks Begin

HONOLULU — With job security the main issue, Local 142 sugar and pineapple negotiators opened talks last week with industry spokesmen.

The two negotiating teams represent approximately 10,000 sugar workers and 7,000 pineapple workers.

In each case, major priorities in the list of the demands were proposals to protect workers on plantations which are being closed down.

Sugar workers in particular expressed concern at the recent closings of plantations at Kahuku and Kilauea, as well as the threatened closing of Kohala plantation. (See story, page 6.)

Demands placed before the pineapple industry also showed serious concern for the problems and rights of non-regular, or intermittent employees.

In each case, the demands grew out of a long process of discussion and democratic decision-making by the Local 142 rank-and-file. Demands developed at every plantation unit were then discussed at the sugar and pine caucuses which met in late September, and finalized by elected subcommittees.

Contracts in both industries expire on January 31, 1972. This marks the first time that there is a common expiration date for sugar and pineapple workers.

SUGAR DEMANDS

In addition to a substantial pay hike and other job security provisions, sugar negotiators will be calling for "special liquidation provisions" to prevent any company from

—Continued on Page 6