

Longshore Parleys Resumed

SAN FRANCISCO—Longshore contract negotiations—broken off by the ILWU on December 15—resumed February 3 as **The Dispatcher** went to press.

After an exchange of letters between the Coast Committee and the PMA, it was agreed that consideration of the problems on which talks had broken down would be side-stepped to a future date while negotiations continue on the main industry-wide demands.

Negotiations broke down seven weeks ago when the ILWU longshore negotiating committee insisted that matters such as jurisdiction, manning and "steady men" (section 9.43 of the contract), be dealt with on a local or area basis, while the PMA asked that they be subject to coast-wise talks.

With this problem temporarily out of the way, the ILWU and the PMA will go on to consider the weightiest set of demands ever submitted to longshore negotiations.

These include a wage hike of one dollar per year over two years and a work opportunity guarantee — with the employer furnishing either work or pay for all registered men.

The preliminary caucus which set negotiating strategy last October, also demanded a \$500 per month pension, extensive medical and dental improvements and eventual reduction of shifts to seven hours.

Also, no further reduction in gang sizes, all longshore work to be done by longshoremen, ten paid holidays, a prescription drug plan, safety improvements, and payment of all outstanding M&M claims.

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