

# Support Pours in for Renewed Coast Strike

## ILWU Asks for Help South of The Border

SAN FRANCISCO — A request for support to help tighten up the West Coast strike was made this week to major longshore unions in Mexico by vice president William Chester.

Chester, who recently visited a number of Mexican longshore unions and their leadership, made his request in the form of a letter explaining the status of the West Coast strike.

He spoke of the 100-day strike for better wages, working conditions and job security, that ended with government intervention — the Taft-Hartley injunction that forced ILWU longshoremen and clerks back on the job.

He noted that the union negotiated around-the-clock recently to try to reach an agreement but a deadlock was reached and talks broke off when employers refused to consider certain basic wage and job security demands.

### COMPULSORY ARBITRATION

"Now we are again on strike from the Mexican Border to the Canadian Border," Chester wrote. "Now we are again threatened by government intervention. This time President Nixon has asked Congress to force us back on the job with a threat of huge fines under a law especially aimed at us. It would attempt to send men back to work under a form of compulsory arbitration — something we know historically is no good for working people."

Noting that both the ILWU and the Mexican longshore unions have always pledged solidarity and support during any struggles, Chester said:

"We need your support to tighten our strike and make it more effective. With this in mind we respectfully urge you to contact your brother longshoremen in the Port of Ensenada to ask them to give us whatever help and support they can.

"Naturally we understand that you function under your own laws—many of which are strict—and we would never ask you to break your laws, therefore we ask only for support that would not endanger your security or that of your union.

### ENSENADA CARGO

"A number of cargoes destined for West Coast ports have been diverted to Ensenada and anything you can do to help us that would not endanger your union or your personal security will be deeply appreciated. With the help and support of the working class here at home and abroad, we are sure we will win, in spite of the heavy pressures from both employers and government.

"I will never forget your hospitality and kindness during my recent visit to your country," Chester concluded, "and thank you in advance for anything you can do. Best fraternal greetings from my fellow officers and myself."

### Poll Shows Americans Lose Faith in Nixonomics

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — A large segment of Americans no longer trust their government's ability to run the economy successfully. That's the conclusion of a poll taken by a University of Michigan team here recently.

The survey showed that 61 percent of the 1,300 people interviewed saw no hope that Nixon's policies would lead to improvement in the unemployment picture.



— photo by Joe Velson

It was cold and wet on the San Francisco picket lines

## SF Labor Council Blasts Plan To Force Longshore Pact

SAN FRANCISCO—A powerful resolution of support for striking West Coast longshoremen — and condemnation of compulsory arbitration and "legislative settlements for striking longshoremen or any other section of labor" — was passed here this week by the San Francisco Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO), and the Building Trades Council.

Similar pledges of support were made at the same time by the Alameda County Labor Council and other labor bodies on the West Coast. Following is the San Francisco resolution:

"Whereas, the Nixon Administration economic policies have been actively opposed by the labor movement; and

"Whereas, President Nixon imposed a wage freeze and wage controls which have sabotaged hard-won union conditions gained through collective bargaining; and

"Whereas, The Taft-Hartley Act has been used to break strikes; and

"Whereas, The Nixon economic policies deliberately created unemployment; and

"Whereas, The latest action of the Nixon Administration is to demand compulsory and forced arbitration against the striking longshoremen which could affect every section of the American labor movement; and

"Whereas, George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO, has condemned the President's request with a statement that, "our unions will never

## Teamsters Oppose US Role in Dock Strike

MIAMI — Opposition to government intervention to end the West Coast longshore strike was voiced by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters' general executive board at its meeting here. The statement follows:

"We always have been and still are opposed to the principles of settling labor disputes by the process of agreements imposed by the will of the government rather than by the agreement of the parties directly involved. We believe that the basic principles of industrial democracy can be preserved only through direct agreement of the parties or through procedures to which the parties have agreed voluntarily."

submit to compulsory arbitration," now, therefore be it

"Resolved, That the San Francisco Labor Council, protest and oppose all attempts at compulsory arbitration, a legislative settlement for the striking longshoremen or any other section of labor, and be it further

"Resolved, That we request the Mayor and Board of Supervisors of the City of San Francisco to adopt similar stands through resolutions and Statements of Policy; and be it further

"Resolved, That we ask all candidates for elective national office, their positions on compulsory arbitration or "legislative settlements," and be it further

"Resolved, That we call for an immediate emergency conference of all labor organizations, regardless of affiliation, to plan concerted action to defeat this latest threat to all of organized labor."

## North Cal Women Pledge Strike Aid

SAN FRANCISCO — Continuing support to the ILWU strike and the program of the ILWU was pledged by the Northern California District Council of Auxiliaries in its meeting January 15 in San Francisco. Delegates from Stockton, Oakland and San Francisco attended the all-day meeting hosted by Auxiliary 16, San Francisco.

Anticipating important legislative action on the part of ILWU Northern California unions, the auxiliary Council sent a check of \$25.00 for the legislative work to the ILWU Northern California District Council.

A contribution was forwarded to the "Angela Davis Legal Defense Fund" to be used to help defray the cost of conducting legal defense. Birthday greetings were extended to Miss Davis on January 26th.

Other contributions went to the National Jewish Hospital and Research Center in Denver; to the San Francisco Women for Peace and to the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Council officers for 1972 are: Elaine Yoneda, president; Clydena Austin, vice president; Dawn Rutter, recording secretary; Harriet Shuffler, treasurer; Wenonah Drasnin, corresponding secretary and Luevirda Jackson, historian.

## Canadian Area Pledges Aid to Coast Strikers

VANCOUVER, BC — The ILWU Canadian Area Executive Board has pledged full and unqualified support for striking American longshoremen on the West Coast.

This came in response to a letter from Coast Strike Strategy Chairman, Harry Bridges, to ILWU Canadian Area president Don Garcia. Bridges called on the Canadian longshoremen to plan action "to assist in bringing about a successful termination of the strike and a contract acceptable to the membership of the Longshore Division in the USA."

### DIVERTED CARGO

The Coast Strike Strategy Committee urged Canadian members not to handle cargo diverted from the USA to be loaded or unloaded at British Columbia for further transshipment to or from points in the USA. The Coast Strike Committee noted that such a request might impose "legal, financial and other burdens upon our Canadian brothers."

The Committee added that the Longshore Division and the International Union will give full support to their Canadian brothers if any serious situations develop.

The Committee's letter to Canadians said: "In view of the proposal for a legislative, compulsory settlement of the strike we urge the Canadian Longshore Division to take favorable action . . . as soon as possible."

### STRATEGY

In addition to pledging full support for their American brothers, the Canadians said that they will implement their pledge after the Canadian Area Executive Board meets again with an International officer where they can hammer out strategy "best calculated to bring maximum pressure to bear on our mutual employers to attain a just and equitable settlement."

At the time *The Dispatcher* went to press plans were underway for vice president Chester to fly to Vancouver to discuss this strategy.

## UE Pledges Aid

The United Electrical Workers (UE) has promised full support to the ILWU longshoremen with the resumption of the dock strike, and has attacked President Nixon's attempt to win legislation to break the strike.

UE secretary James Matles met Monday, January 24 with the Local 10 and Local 34 Strike Committee to convey this pledge of support.

On the same day, UE president Albert J. Fitzgerald sent the following telegram to the chairmen of the House and Senate Labor Committees:

"Speaking on behalf of my union, I sharply protest President Nixon's proposed legislation that would use Congress as a strike-breaker to order striking West Coast longshoremen back to work.

"I also sharply condemn the proposal for compulsory arbitration of the issues of the strike as unprecedented interference with the rights of union members and free collective bargaining.

"It is a great injustice to penalize striking workers for the recalcitrance of the shipowners who refuse to meet their workers' just demands."