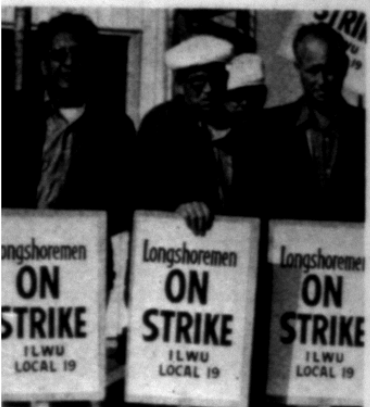


All Ports Are Down

The DISPATCHER

July 13, 1977

KEY 154
WIS STATE HIST SOCIETY
816 STATE ST
MADISON WI 53706



Strike 100% Effective

SAN FRANCISCO—The West Coast waterfront strike, now in its third week, is 100 percent effective.

From border to border all ports are down and the morale of longshoremen and clerks on the bricks is up.

In his "On the Beam" column in this issue of *The Dispatcher* President Bridges concludes by saying:

"I know we have some plenty tough demands, but I am also sure we have a winner!"

All coast longshore and clerk locals have received a letter from Bridges, chairman of the coast negotiating committee, bringing the membership up to date on the final offers of the PMA and detailing strike strategy.

This includes two employer offers: a one-year settlement offer, or the British Columbia three-year proposal. Both were rejected by the ILWU negotiators as insufficient.

(The full text of the letter on these offers and on strike strategy is on page 3. An outline of the BC agreement is on page 7.)

The coast strategy committee, in response to a request from the US government, has agreed to load almost 29,000 tons of grain to feed starving Pakistani refugees. (See page 8.)

WELFARE

In answer to many questions concerning welfare and pensions, the coast strike strategy committee guarantees that welfare benefits and pension payments will continue.

PMA has refused to release the money now in the welfare fund. It is the union's position that this money is the property of the striking "A" and "B" men. The issue has been taken to the coast arbitrator.

However he rules, the union will guarantee that Kaiser or the insured plans will be paid and welfare will continue during the strike.

(These points are explained in detail on pages 2 and 3.)

MORALE HIGH

The high level of morale reported by all locals can best be judged by the way all hands went swinging into

action the moment the strike began.

Strike bulletins started flying out like autumn leaves and in short time there was complete mobilization.

Naturally there was some confusion at first. As most bulletins point out—this is the first coastwise strike in 23 years, and a majority of the men had never been in a strike of this kind before.

It was well stated by Local 19's second bulletin, written in Jerry Tyler's inimitable style:

"CONFUSION? CHAOS? Of course! Remember the first time you kissed a girl? It was a gigantic job getting our strike machinery rolling. Our Strike Committee and their helpers were like cats on a tin roof and came through in fine style under the circumstances. Our membership, in the main, showed much good humor and patience. There are still some problems unsolved. But most of the bugs have been erased. It takes time. Don't start a bunch of stupid rumors. Just complicates things. And if you think you are being abused pulling a six-hour picket shift, how about your Strike Committee? Day and night every day of the week, man! (and no pay.)"

All locals or areas have set up their own varieties of strike organization. In most cases the men are formed into picket line groups who are dispatched to specific piers or gates. There are also roving pickets in cars—and even boats in some ports—who keep a watch on the over-all scene.

There are committees to handle every conceivable problem: publicity—to keep members informed; "bumming" committees to get food and clothing where needed; hardship committees—to deal with getting food stamps or other relief.

UNITY

The universal tone of all the bulletins is—Unity! The spirit is high. Publicity Committees keep emphasizing that the strike may be a long one—and report that the men are digging in and prepared.

