



The DISPATCHER

Published by the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union

Vol. 29, No. 13

Published semi-monthly at 150 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94102. Second class postage paid at San Francisco. Subscription \$2.50 per year

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July 2, 1971

COAST ON STRIKE



Photo by Joe Velson

Dockers Vote 96% For Strike

SAN FRANCISCO—At 8 a.m., July 1, the wheels stopped turning and every port on the West Coast was shut tight.

With the Coast longshore contract expiring on this date, ILWU longshoremen and clerks from San Diego, California, to Bellingham, Washington, broke out their picket signs and moved their strike machinery into action.

The ILWU Coast Negotiating Committee, which is also the strike strategy committee, was armed with the results of an official longshore and clerks' ballot, authorizing them to call a strike for the union's strike demands.

The results were: YES—9317; NO—343.

This was a 96.4 percent strike vote. Bargaining talks, which started last November, continued into the late hours the day before the strike became official.

The union's strike position was presented to the Pacific Maritime Association on June 29. PMA studied the position and made counter offers which were essentially the same as those they made last April.

The employers claimed they could not afford either the original demands made by the October caucus or the new demands.

They said the cost of the union's demands would run them \$5,000 per hour over two years, not including the increased cost of the demand for wage parity for those doing container freight station work.

(The text of the union's strike position can be found on the back page.)

The major items include:

- Jurisdiction on container work, with extension of the Container Freight Station Agreement, and with Pacific Coast Longshore Agreement wages for that work.

The PMA said they cannot guarantee jurisdiction and turned down the demand for wage parity.

- On wages, the union demanded 85 cents the first year and 75 cents the second year. The employers asked for a three-year contract, and offered 50 cents the first year, 35 cents the second, and 50 cents the third.

International Election Results

SAN FRANCISCO—All four titled ILWU International officers were re-elected unopposed in secret balloting held June 7-11 to serve another two year term.

International president Harry Bridges received 24,672 votes; vice-president-director of organization George Martin, 24,133; vice-president-assistant to the president William Chester, 23,278; and secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt, 23,662.

The new International executive board members are:

Southern California: L.C. (Chick) Loveridge, Local 13; and Al Perisho, Local 63. Incumbent Paul Perlin, Local 26, was defeated in his bid for re-election.

Northern California: Running unopposed were David Littleton, Local 10, James Herman, Local 34, and Curtis McClain, Local 6.

Oregon-Columbia River: Don Ronne of Local 8 defeated Dick Wise, also of Local 8.

Washington-Alaska: Ed Anderson, Local 19, and George Ginnis, Local 23, defeated Terry Sweeney, Local 52, and Donald Gilchrest, Local 32.

Canada: Incumbent Robert Peebles, Local 500, defeated Frederick Mahoney, Local 517.

Hawaii: Pedro Dela Cruz (pine-

apple), Eddie De Mello (longshore) and Elmer Lau (tourism) were elected, defeating Thomas Vrandenberg, Bernabe Quitevis and Lelan Nishek.

No certified tabulation was received from Local 15, Bellingham, and no returns were received from Local 3, Seattle; Local 16, Juneau; Local 35, Trona; Local 41, Juneau; Local 43, Longview; Local 57, Fresno;

Local 65, Haines; Local 66, Cordova; and Local 85, Petersburg.

The balloting committee consisted of Cleophas Williams, Local 10, chairman; Joseph Campion, Local 34; Daniel P. Haleamau, Local 18; Ben Davis, Local 17; and Ray Morales, Local 6.

Complete local-by-local election returns are on page 8.

Officers Call for New Coast Committee Vote

SAN FRANCISCO — The recent election for the two Coast Committee positions has been declared null and void by ILWU International president Harry Bridges, responding to a challenge to the conduct of the election by candidate Arthur A. Almeida, Local 13.

A new election will be held, said Bridges in a letter to all clerks and longshore locals, on July 12-14 with the final results to be reported by July 16. The candidates for the two positions will be the same—incumbents William Ward, Local 13 and William Forrester, Local 51; and challengers Almeida and Fred Hunter, Local 8.

Almeida challenged the election on June 19 on the grounds that:

- 350 Local 13 "B" registered union members had been denied the right to vote.

- Members of Hawaii Local 142 were permitted to vote for coast committeemen although "said coast committee office does in no way affect them on their collective bargaining relations with their Hawaiian Island employers."

(Text of Almeida's challenge, response by balloting committee, coast committeeman William Ward, and president Bridges' decision is on p. 7).

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