

# Longshore Parleys In Recess

**SAN FRANCISCO**—Longshore and clerk negotiations with the Pacific Maritime Association have been recessed.

Members of the ILWU negotiating committee have returned to their home ports, to bring rank-and-file members up to date, and to conduct negotiations on local issues.

The negotiating committee will be summoned back and negotiations resumed only if the PMA indicates such a resumption is meaningful and worthwhile.

Under any circumstances, the full negotiating committee will be called back no later than May 31.

Meanwhile, a subcommittee made up of the four titled officers and the two members of the Coast Labor Relations Committee, is standing by to determine if the PMA presents an offer that is acceptable and worth recommending to the union rank and file.

## **STRIKE VOTE?**

If this cannot be achieved, the negotiating committee is expected to order a strike vote of all longshore and clerk locals in the three western states and Hawaii.

ILWU President Harry Bridges, who is chairman of the negotiating committee, stated:

**"Our program is to avoid a strike. We have been driving consistently for a negotiated settlement."**

As noted in the recent five-day Longshore, Clerk and Walking Bosses' Caucus, held in San Francisco April 27-May 1, the ILWU's traditional program is that no strike action is taken unless there is 85 percent rank-and-file approval.

Bridges, in his "On the Beam" column (see Page 2), pointed out that the "union's program is one of making every effort to get a new two-year agreement by negotiations and to embark on a strike program only as a last resort when all else fails."

## **LOCAL NEGOTIATIONS**

Meanwhile, wherever feasible, longshore and clerk locals along the coast are driving through on certain items referred to local negotiations.

These include local working and dispatching rules, miscellaneous and local port agreements, travel time, certain manning scales, etc.

The locals or areas must conclude satisfactory local negotiations before an overall coast agreement can be concluded.

**Next Dispatcher  
Deadline, May 28**