

# All-Out Support for Longshoremens

## Caucus Prepares For Fight

**SAN FRANCISCO** — A call for an action program — including preparations for a rank - and - file strike vote—was sounded by the longshore, clerk and walking bosses caucus, meeting here April 27 through May 1.

This came after it was reported the Pacific Maritime Association had rejected the basic demands made by the ILWU negotiating committee.

The caucus met here four days after the convention adjourned in Honolulu. Delegates included longshoremens from Hawaii and visitors from Canadian locals. Cleophas Williams, Local 10, was elected caucus chairman, and Albert Perisho, Local 63, secretary.

See Bridges' column, "On the Beam," page 2, for full explanation of caucus strategy.

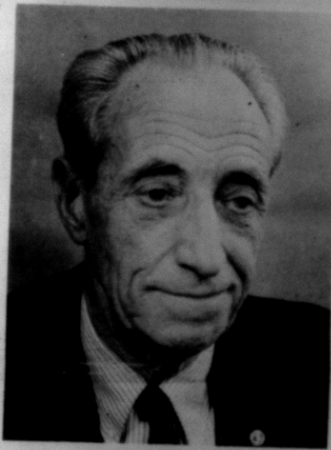
After several days discussion around the negotiating committee's progress report, the caucus determined to move into the following action program:

- No further negotiations with the PMA unless the negotiating committee determines the employers are willing to come up quickly with a settlement position that can be recommended to the rank and file.
- Locals will be ordered to enforce the Container Freight Station Agreement by not working on June 30 any container not stuffed by ILWU's registered workforce. (Exceptions to this are spelled out in the agreement.)
- When deemed necessary by the negotiating committee a strike vote, effective July 1, will be taken by all locals. Traditionally, strike action is not taken unless there is 85 percent rank and file approval.

It was agreed that the negotiating committee will also serve as the strike strategy committee if and when the men go on strike. The committee will also include the four titled officers. The negotiating committee would go off the payroll the day a strike begins.

In other actions:  
—The caucus voted that the International Executive Board ask all

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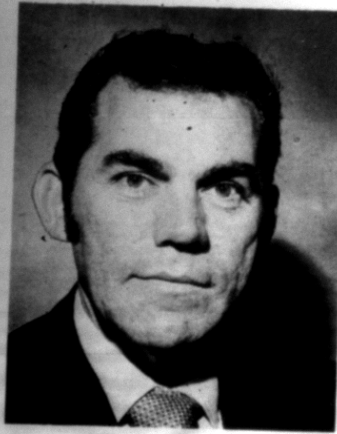
**Harry Bridges**  
President



**Louis Goldblatt**  
Secretary-Treasurer



**William Chester**  
Vice President  
Assistant to the President



**George Martin**  
Vice President  
Director of Organization

## A Vote of Confidence

**HONOLULU** — Delegates to the Nineteenth Biennial Convention gave a full vote of confidence to the present International leadership of the union by unanimously re-nominating them for another two year term.

Running unopposed for president will be **Harry Bridges**; vice president-assistant to the president, **William Chester**; vice president-director of organization, **George Martin**; and secretary-treasurer, **Louis Goldblatt**. All were greeted with standing ovations.

Perhaps the spirit of the officers was best expressed by president

Bridges when he told the delegates, "for the coming period, you will have whatever I have. I will do my part, I guarantee you that."

As delegates rose in a new ovation, the four officers met in the center of the stage and clasped hands.

### EXEC BOARD

The following were nominated for positions on the International executive board:

**Northern California:** (three to be elected), **Curtis McClain**, Local 6; **David Littleton**, Local 10; **James Herman**, Local 34.

**Southern California:** (two to be

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## Keynote Is United Power

**HONOLULU** — It was "longshore year" at the ILWU's Nineteenth Biennial Convention, which met here, April 19-23, to develop union policies and programs for the next two years.

Keynoting the convention with the warning that negotiations for a new longshore agreement is the most important business before this body, Bridges said bluntly:

"We're going to win a good contract for the longshoremens, by negotiations without a fight, if possible, and with a hell of a fight, if we must."

This set the tone for the five-day meeting at the Ilikai Hotel on Waikiki where more than 500 official and fraternal delegates made this the largest ILWU convention ever held.

### HARD WORKING

ILWU conventions are traditionally hard working and this was no exception. Every delegate was assigned to a committee and was expected to give full attention to his responsibilities.

While at times discussion on many policy statements, resolutions and constitutional changes seemed bland, and often carried with little debate, the real heart of convention activities was in the committees. They often worked deep into the night, with hot debate, to hammer out union policies.

When host Local 142 president **Carl Damaso** brought the convention to order, and after opening ceremonies were concluded (see pages 6 and 7), he made a few remarks before handing over the gavel to the ILWU president:

"We are proud of what this union has accomplished to liberate working people from poverty and indignity and racial discrimination and in opening the door for a better life for ourselves and our children."

Then he noted the press gossip that there were internal disagreements in the union.

"This union is the property of the rank and file, not the officers. The rank and file... and their families... that is what this union is all about. They want to keep it united and strong."

In his keynote, Bridges responded to this point:

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