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DISPATCHER

Official Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union

October 8, 1971

Taft-Hartley!

Nixon Uses Strikebreak Act

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The contracts referred to are the Longshore Agreement, the Clerks' Agreement and Container Freight Station Supplement.)

After the injunction was granted the Coast Strike Strategy Committee, in a letter to all locals (see columns at left) recommended that all striking locals return to work.

On October 7, a wire to all coast longshore, clerk and walking bosses locals, stated:

"The Coast Strike Strategy Committee, because of an injunction issued under the Taft-Hartley Law, October 6, 1971, unanimously voted to instruct all locals to return to work coastwise, as of the first shift, Saturday, October 9, 1971. All men required to perform necessary preliminary work such as maintenance, gear, and supervisory personnel shall be permitted to report to work prior to coastwise resumption of work.

"The injunction specifies that return to work is under terms and provisions of the Longshore, Clerk and Container Freight Station Agreements in effect June 30, 1971.

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INFORMATION LINE: Local 10 has...
 NEW ORLEANS: One of the 20...
 WASHINGTON: Local 10 has...
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STRIKE

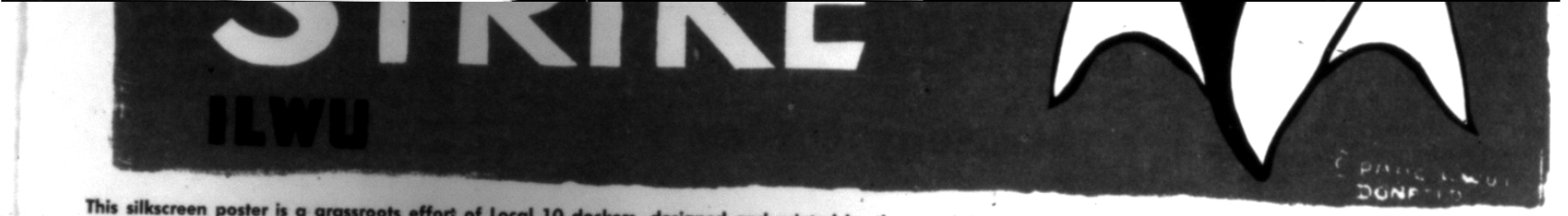
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Now It's

ILWU Strategy Committee
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 The last negotiating meeting with PMA took place Monday morning, October 4. Further negotiations were suspended when PMA gave a negative answer to a proposal advanced by the union committee which sought to settle one of the key demands of the union — namely, a Wage Guarantee for A and B longshoremen and clerks.



This silkscreen poster is a grassroots effort of Local 10 dockers, designed and printed by them and distributed by the Arts and Activities Committee of Locals 10 and 34.

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52 October 8, 1971

Now It's Taft-Hartley!

ILWU Strategy Committee Recommends Return to Work

Re: Report of Negotiations

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

The last negotiating meeting with PMA took place Monday morning, October 4. Further negotiations were suspended when PMA gave a negative answer to a proposal advanced by the union committee which sought to settle one of the key demands of the union — namely, a Wage Guarantee for A and B longshoremen and clerks.

When negotiations ceased, it was apparent to the parties that we were deadlocked on the key issues of: a Guaranteed Wage proposal, the work of stuffing Containers on and off docks, the union's demands on improved Welfare, Vacations, Wages, Grievance Machinery and Length of Contract.

Two issues that could be described as tentatively settled, subject to the whole contract being settled, were Pensions and most of the union's proposals on Manning Scales and procedure.

Just prior to noon, Monday, Mr. J. Curtis Counts, Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, announced to the parties that after sitting in negotiations for better than two weeks, he had come to the conclusion that negotiations had reached an impasse. He said he was duty-bound to report this fact to the White House, and that there was every likelihood that a Taft-Hartley injunction would be sought by the Federal Government.

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Despite the fact that both coasts were down, the President invoked the T-H law only against the West Coast ILWU and Chicago grain handlers, members of the ILA.

United States District Judge Spencer Williams handed down his order despite strenuous objections by the union.

ILWU attorneys stated there was no emergency that imperiled national "health and safety"—pointing to the continuous movement of military and other vital cargoes and the fact that ports were open in British Columbia, Mexico, Alaska and Hawaii.

However, the judge agreed with a board of inquiry appointed by the President, which claimed the union and employers were too far apart for a quick settlement.

The judge's temporary restraining order specifically said: "... all parties

ties resume and continue operations under the terms of the ... collective bargaining contracts in effect on June 30, 1971, and the grievance and arbitration decisions thereunder."

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Having said that, let us suppose that, as some have indicated, that we will be confronted very soon with an Eastern longshore strike. If you have an Eastern longshore strike, and a Western longshore strike still continuing, Taft-Hartley automatically is going to be applied, because then the damage is going to be very great.

This is a portion of the official transcript of President Nixon's remarks to news editors in Portland, Saturday, Sept. 25, the same day he met with ILWU and PMA presidents. While he implied that Taft-Hartley would be applied to both coasts, in fact he invoked the law only against West Coast dockworkers. For interpretation of this act, see Harry Bridges "On the Beam" on page two.