

Longshore Parleys Continue

SAN FRANCISCO — Coastwise longshore negotiations, which were resumed here Wednesday, August 25, were continuing with almost no stops.

This included meetings on Saturday and Sunday, over the long Labor Day weekend, and meetings were underway as **The Dispatcher** went to press.

The primary issue currently revolves around containers and the guarantees.

However, all issues are still on the table for negotiation, including wages. The only exceptions are those items reserved for local negotiations.

DEMANDS

Main demands, as they have been from the beginning, in addition to container jurisdiction, include substantial hikes in wages and pensions, a work opportunity guarantee, certain essential changes in welfare benefits, paid holidays, manning scales and several others.

The strike, which started July 1, is now in its 11th week. An official longshore and clerks' referendum authorized the Coast Negotiating Committee to call a strike for the union's strike demands by a vote of 9,317 to 343.

This was a 96.4 percent strike vote!

Negotiations on the main issues are expected to keep moving along at a regular pace.

However, no public reports on negotiations will be made, by agreement of both sides that these talks are not public property and that any announcement on progress will be made only by joint release.

While main issues are being negotiated on a coast level, local level negotiations are expected to be continued on eight items which were designated by the Strike Strategy Committee.

These are: Working and dispatching rules; Local miscellaneous agreements; Manning scales other than basic minimum mannings; Section 9.43 (steadymen); Travel time and transportation; Port Authority agreements; Promotion and training Rules; and Clerk Port Supplements.

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