



The DISPATCHER

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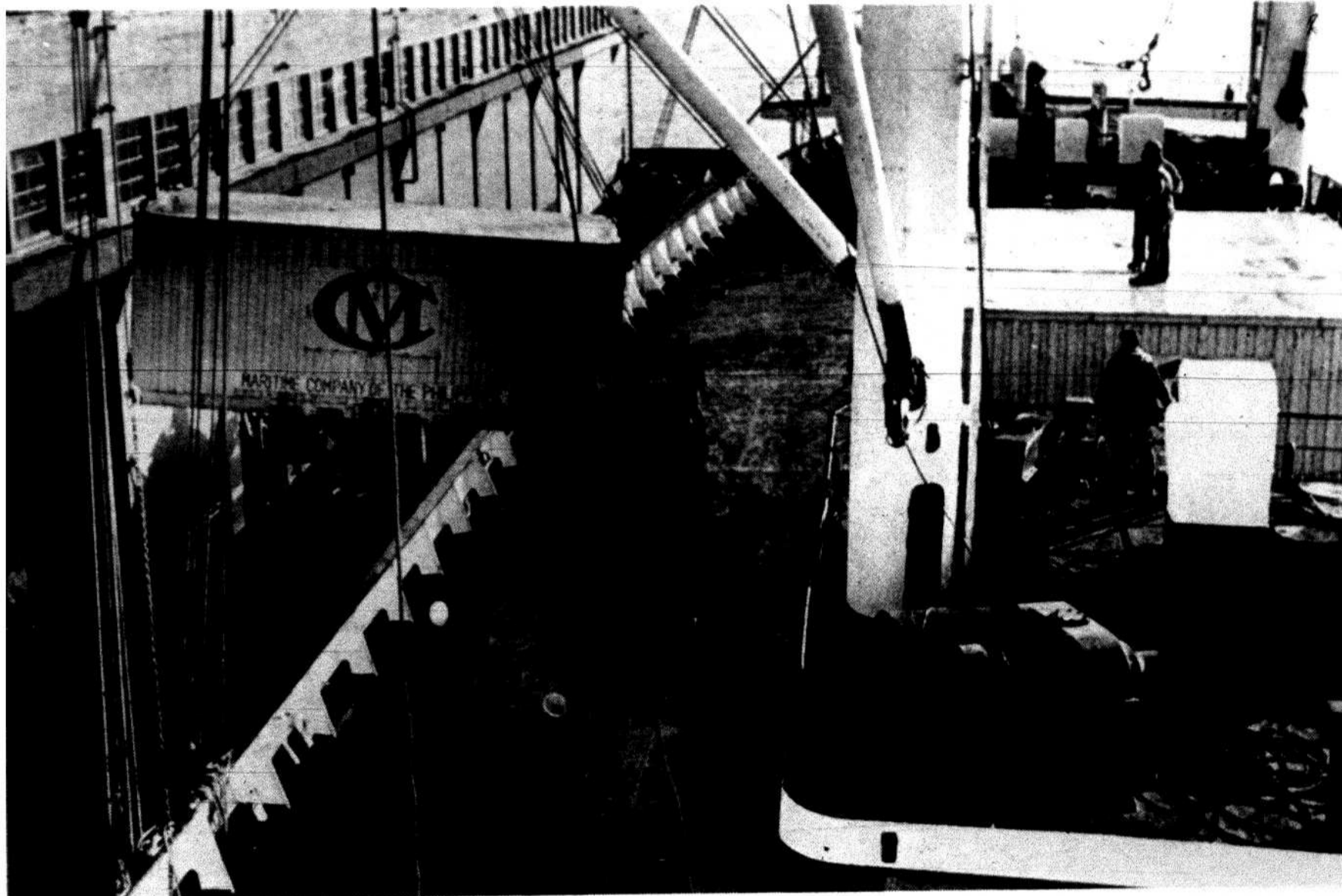
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February 24, 1972

STRIKE IS OVER



Ranks OK Contract By 71%

SAN FRANCISCO — After more than a year of negotiations and over 134 days of strike which shut every major West Coast port, ILWU longshore division members have approved a new contract.

It was agreed by both sides that if the President's Pay Board does not approve, either party may give notice of cancellation and the union shall be free to take any action, including strike action. (See Bridges' "On the Beam," page 2.)

In secret balloting between February 17-19, nearly 10,000 longshoremen and clerks voted by over 71 percent to approve the new 17 month agreement negotiated by the Coast Negotiating Committee and recommended by the Longshore, Clerks' and Walking Boss' Caucus.

The vote was: Yes—6,803; No—2,761.

(See tabulation of caucus vote on page 4 and rank and file vote on page 8.)

The final vote was taken only after 95 regular delegates from 33 locals, including Hawaii, spent four days going over the tentative agreement—in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding between the ILWU and the PMA — with a fine comb.

The Caucus met at ILWU headquarters in San Francisco on Saturday, February 12 and worked through until Tuesday night, February 15.

At the outset, the delegates received the summary of the pact printed in *The Dispatcher* on February 11, 1972, as well as the full Memorandum of Understanding. The agreement, it was understood, could only be voted up or down, with no amendments.

The delegates then worked their way through the contract, asking questions, raising objections and getting clarification. At all times, the

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Compulsory Arbitration Bill

A Congressional Doublecross

WASHINGTON, DC — On February 8, in the midst of a Senate debate on President Nixon's bill to bust up the West Coast dock strike, it was announced on the floor that the ILWU and the PMA had reached a tentative agreement.

That didn't faze anyone. Senator Robert Packwood (R.-Ore.), pushed right ahead, declaring that "the ILWU is a very independent union," and that the agreement still had to be approved by the caucus and a rank-and-file vote.

So, concluded the Senator, the compulsory arbitration bill was still necessary, in case the dock workers acted up.

So much for union democracy.

The "joint resolution"—which authorizes the President to appoint a panel of arbitrators to settle the dispute without any membership vote—was then quickly ramrodded through both houses.

NIXON TACTICS

It was assisted along by a combination of administration steam-rolling, congressional gutlessness and political card-sharpping.

ILWU Washington representative Pat Tobin noted that the administration had successfully whipped up enough anti-labor feelings in Congress to get the resolution through. Passage of President Nixon's forced

return to work and compulsory arbitration bill was made possible by the defection of the so-called liberal Democrats in the House and Senate.

In the face of united action by the AFL-CIO, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, United Mine Workers, United Auto Workers, United Elec-

Nixon Bill Is 'Insult To US Workers'

BAL HARBOR, Fla.—"An insult to all American workers," was the way AFL-CIO president George Meany characterized Nixon's signing of the ILWU strike intervention resolution which was passed by Congress.

Said Meany:

"A gratuitous insult to all American workers. The President through his house leaders had promised not to sign the measure if the strikers returned to work. Like so many of his other promises this pledge was broken without apology or explanation. The signing of this bill, designed to compel American citizens to work against their will for the private profit of other American citizens on terms mandated by the government, is further evidence, if any is needed, of the pronounced tilt of this Administration toward entrenched wealth and greed."

trical, Radio and Machine Workers and the ILWU, President Nixon was able to pass his anti-strike bill the same day or the day after agreement had been reached on all economic issues in the West Coast longshore strike.

SENATE A PUSHOVER

Administration lobbyists pushed the bill through the Senate by a 79-3, despite protests by labor committee chairman Harrison Williams (D.-Del.) of undue arm-twisting. Even the labor committee's liberal majority voted to support the bill with minor alterations.

Only Senators William Proxmire (D.-Wisc.), Fred Harris (D.-Okla.) and Lowell Weicker (R.-Conn.) voted against the bill.

And Proxmire said that the only reason he voted "no" was that any settlement coming out of the Administration's bill would not be subject to Pay Board approval. Thus, he said, it would be "inflationary."

In spite of strong commitments made by California Senators Alan Cranston and John Tunney to Jack Henning, secretary-treasurer of the California Federation of Labor, both California senators deserted the united labor movement to support

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Ratification Vote

YES	6803
NO	2761

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