

Evans to Urge Both Sides To Halt Dock Strike 90 Days

OLYMPIA — Telegrams will go out from Gov. Dan Evans this morning to the two antagonists in the West Coast dock strike urging them to halt the strike for at least 90 days.

But at the same time those plans were being made, Harry Bridges, president of the Longshoremens' Union, said in San Francisco yesterday that local issues will have to be substantially resolved in the 24 West Coast ports before coastwide negotiations can resume. No talks have been held since June 30.

Evans prepared the telegram after conferring late yesterday with Curtis Counts, chief of the U.S. Mediation & Conciliation

Service.

"He told me that a halt to all labor disputes was a part of the President's wage-price control package," Evans said.

Counts forwarded Evans a copy of a telegram the federal mediator sent to Bridges and Edward Flynn, president of the Pacific Maritime Association, the principals in the strike.

The telegram Evans is sending this morning merely urges Bridges and Flynn to follow President Nixon's suggestion.

"I don't know whether they'll respond or not," Evans said, but "It could give us time to get some relief, especially for the wheat crop."

Evans said no one here had been aware that Nixon's call for a 90-day wage-price freeze had included a call for a voluntary end to work stoppages for the same period.

Evans last week sent telegrams to both Flynn and Bridges telling them that in his opinion talks on the strike were not proceeding fast enough.

Bridges returned the call and told the governor details of local settlements leading up to coast-wide negotiations.

Evans said Flynn had

called back Friday, but the governor was out. They have not yet been in contact.

Meanwhile, the Port of Longview reported yesterday an agreement had been reached with Local 21 and has reopened for cargo.

Harvey Hart, port manager, explained that Longview's port is not a member of the Pacific Maritime Association, against whom the ILWU is striking.

Hart said the longshoremens have agreed to handle all the cargo now stored on Longview docks.

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