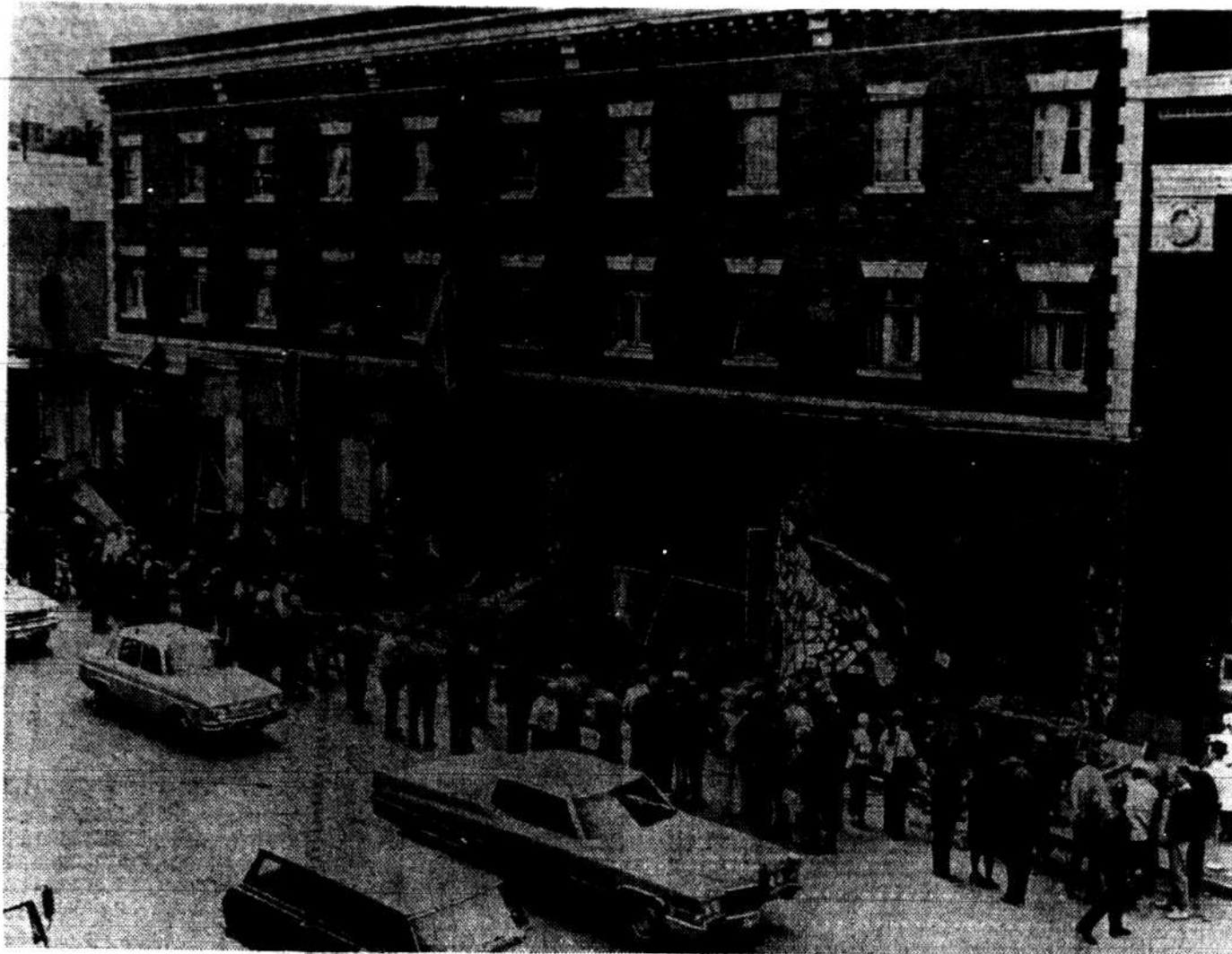


# Nixon 'Optimistic' West

## Coast Dock Strike End Near



—P-I Photo by Paul Thomas

CROWD VIEWED SHATTERED FRONT OF THE OLYMPUS HOTEL BUILDING IN PORT ANGELES YESTERDAY

Late-night explosion injured 32 persons and caused \$500,000 damage to businesses in the heart of the city

### \$50 Million Highway

### Port Angeles

### Blast Damage

## Taft-Hartley Use Delayed

The New York Times, UPI

President Nixon was reported yesterday to be "optimistic" that the West Coast longshoremen's strike will be settled this weekend.

For that reason, the President held off invoking the Taft-Hartley Act, despite a new strike of 45,000 East and Gulf Coast dock workers.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary, said in Key Biscayne, Fla., that when Nixon said last Saturday he would "automatically" invoke the act if there were strikes on both coasts, he did not mean "immediately."

Ziegler said the administration is "encouraged" by negotiations on the West Coast and announced that J. Curtis Counts, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, intends to keep the negotiators at the bargaining table "with the hope of a settlement this week."

Ziegler said the President had talked with Secretary of Labor James D. Hodgson yesterday and Hodgson had indicated labor and management on the West Coast "have apparently settled many of their major issues and are making progress on many of their others."

Striking longshoremen closed all but a handful of American deepwater ports yesterday. It was the first time in American history that docks on the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts were shut down at the same time.

About 45,000 dock workers represented by the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) at Atlantic and Gulf Coast ports joined the three-month-old strike of Pacific Coast longshoremen which has tied up West Coast shipping since July.

The only deepwater ports still operating were at Galveston, Houston, Brownsville and Beaumont-Port Arthur, Texas. A long-