

House Rejects Memorial On Dock Strike

OLYMPIA — (UPI) — The House yesterday failed to pass a memorial to President Nixon and Congress urging federal intervention in the impending West Coast dock strike. The initial defeat set the stage for an unprecedented open meeting of the House Rules Committee Monday.

The memorial was sponsored by Rep. A.J. Pardini, R-Spokane.

Democrats, led by Rep. Gary Grant of Seattle, forced the measure to committee. Nine Democrats then bolted from their party to join Republicans in defeating a motion to send the memorial to the Labor Committee. Speaker Tom Swayze then was obligated to send the longshore memorial to the Rules Committee.

House majority leader Rep. Stewart Bledsoe, R-Elensburg, said the legislature would be "derelict in its duty if we didn't do everything in our power to head off another dock strike."

It was noted by Republicans that a resumption of the dock strike would mean the loss of about \$1 million per day to the state's economy and could result in a permanent loss of agricultural and industrial contracts to foreign countries.

Pardini acknowledged that the Washington Legislature had no power to halt the longshore strike. "But at least we may assist in forcing mediation so a strike would not occur Monday," he said.

Appeal to Nixon: Keep Docks Open

Telegram petitions against the threatened new strike of West Coast docks are pouring in to President Nixon.

Seattle shipping executive Robert Buckingham headed a petition urging the President to require union and employers to keep the docks open "on the basis of the old contract plus increases allowed by the Pay Board . . . until they mutually reach a new contract agreement acceptable to the Pay Board."

That petition was signed by almost 200 persons in Seattle, and copies were forwarded to the Inland Empire for more signatures.