

Dockers To Get Word At 10 A.M.

Seattle longshoremen will learn this morning whether they go back to work under a new contract, extend their present contract while negotiations continue or resume their 100-day strike against the Pacific Maritime Association.

Dock workers put in their last regular shifts yesterday as negotiations between the PMA and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union moved toward today's 8 a.m. deadline.

The union has scheduled a meeting for 10 a.m. today and one longshoreman working at Pier 46 yesterday commented:

"We won't know anything until that meeting."

The ILWU struck PMA members in 24 West Coast ports July 1. Both sides conceded then they were "within a few cents" of agreement over wages but the principal issue was jurisdiction over stuffing containers, a dispute which involves the Teamsters Union.

An 80-day Taft-Hartley Act cooling off period expired on Christmas and the ILWU has been working since then under an extension of the old contract.

J. Curtis Counts, chief of the Federal Mediation Service, said the administration is ready to introduce legislation which would "either settle the terms of a contract or establish a mechanism for settling those terms" if the longshoremen continue their walkout.

Reports of a possible merger between the Teamsters and ILWU have been denied by Harry Bridges, ILWU president.