



—P-I Photo by Tom Brownell

BOB LINDSEY, MEMBER OF SEATTLE DOCKERS' PUBLICITY COMMITTEE  
Union spokesman reported on membership meeting here

# Dock Strike Hits Seattle and Coast

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Discussion yesterday lent strength to reports that Bridges and Teamsters Union president Frank Fitzsimmons have reached some understanding on that jurisdiction to pave the way towards settlement between employers and longshoremen.

As negotiations broke off yesterday, Bridges said negotiators were so near agreement that they might have stopped the clock and continued talking if employers had accepted union demands for retroactivity to Nov. 14.

Employers wanted terms to become effective only after the contract is ratified, Bridges said.

"Legislative action may be the only remedy to allow us to prevent another long and crippling dock strike."

Meeting the press with Ziegler, Labor Undersecretary Laurence Silberman said that use of troops to handle cargo on the docks is not one of the alternatives under consideration.

During last summer's strike, longshoremen cooperated in handling military cargo and some barge cargo originating in Seattle for Alaska.

Both Ziegler and Silberman emphasized that the White House's power to block further strike action ended Dec. 25 with expiration of an 80-day Taft-Hartley injunction. The Administration now must look to Congress for further powers.

The White House could ask Congress either for prompt action on legislation it had proposed earlier to rule out major strikes in the transportation industry or for emergency legislation aimed directly at this onshore tieup.

Bridges said he expects some sort of legislation out of Congress. He commented:

"We'll take care of that when it comes." Bridges and PMA president Flynn agreed that they had settled all other issues except handling of a \$1-a-ton royalty on container cargo loaded or unloaded within a 50-mile radius of the docks.

Bridges said the parties have agreed in principle on a guaranteed work-week of 36

hours for regular registered longshoremen and 18 hours for registered pool men. Also on the \$1-a-ton royalty.

Employers wanted the royalty used to finance the guaranteed work-week. The unions wanted employers to finance the work-week out of other funds.

A Longshoremen's spokesman said later that the union wanted money from the van-stuffing royalties to put into improvement of pensions and other benefits.

The negotiators said they had reached general agreement on wages before the breakup. Terms included a 72-cent raise, to \$5 an hour.

Pressure for settlement is made more urgent by announced plans of the administration to lay the strike before Congress.

White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler told reporters last night that officials are examining alternative courses of action that might be recommended to Congress, Ziegler added.

Cries for federal intervention came from affected West Coast states.

In Washington, State Rep. A. J. Pardini announced plans to reintroduce a memorial in the state legislature asking President Nixon and Congress to move in on the problem.

Gov. Dan Evans said state residents would be "outraged" by resumption of the strike and said there could be no alternative to federal intervention.

Oregon Gov. Tom McCall conferred by phone with Govs. Evans, Ronald Reagan of California, William Egan of Alaska, John Burns of Hawaii, Cecil Andrus of Idaho and Forrest Anderson of Montana, then announced he would represent the seven states at a White House meeting today.

"Tremendous economic losses have been sustained by the people of the Pacific Northwest," McCall said, "and economic disaster is threatened by future work stoppages in transportation."

Like members of other locals up and down the coast, members of Seattle Longshoremen's Local 19 received strike instructions at a meeting yesterday afternoon in the union hall at 84 Union St.

Seattle Clerks and Checkers Local 52 also is on strike.

Local 52 represents members throughout ports of Puget Sound, Grays and Willapa harbors. Local secretary-treasurer Ed Palmer said he expects no gathering of those men until their regularly scheduled meeting here Thursday.



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