



The DISPATCHER

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Sugar Signed for One Year

'One Port-All Ports'

East-Gulf Settlement Awaited

NEW YORK—While a majority of dockworkers belonging to the International Longshoremen's Association have voted agreement to a new contract, some 75,000 longshoremen are still on strike in all Atlantic and Gulf ports from Maine to Texas.

(Despite President Johnson's urging that all striking ILA members return to work where settlements have been achieved, no decision was reached at the time *The Dispatcher* went to press.)

Traditionally, the ILA does not terminate a strike until all ports agree to return, on the slogan, "one port—all ports." At the time the first contract was rejected on January 11, ILA president Thomas W. Gleason said, "We all work together or we all stop together."

613 SHIPS DOWN

From Searsport, Maine, to Brownsville, Texas, longshoremen walked out on the morning of January 11, immobilizing to date more than 613 ships in all ports. The figure of 75,000 dockers was revised from the usual 60,000 figure by Gleason this week.

The strike started after the Taft-Hartley "cooling off" period ended, and after ILA negotiators accepted a new contract which included an 80 cents an hour wage-and-benefits package, an increase in pensions, and a guaranteed annual wage, through guaranteeing 1600 hours of work a year.

These unusual gains were rejected originally by a tight vote in the New York-New Jersey port area, and then, on January 21, ILA longshoremen reversed themselves and voted better than two to one to accept the previously rejected contract.

No return to work was in the offing until other ports acted, which Gleason said, depended on shipping firms in other ports offering comparable wages and benefits packages.

The situation is also a reflection of the long time refusal of numerous employers on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to agree to any kind of coast-wise contract, similar to that in operation for over 30 years on the West Coast.

In Miami and Galveston talks were reported stalemated over minimum work-gang sizes, where the practice has been to vary the sizes according to the cargo handling needs.



'Lady Longshoreman'

Margaret McDougall meets the longshore gang at Ballantyne Pier in Vancouver, British Columbia and shows her charter membership card in newly formed ILWU Local 517, known as the Vancouver Harbour Employees' Association. Among the 120 members in the new local are the first group of women to join any ILWU longshore local.

—Photo by Brian Kent, The Vancouver Sun

New Canadian ILWU Local; First Women Join Dockers

VANCOUVER, B.C.—The 120 member Harbour Employees' Association of Vancouver has joined the ILWU to become Local 517—and welcomed the first women to join the longshoremen's union in Canada.

Officers and charter were officially installed on January 27 by ILWU International Representative Craig Pritchett, with Bud Barker, Canadian Area President bringing greetings from the Canadian membership.

Local 517 has about 10 women members. The story of the first women to join the ILWU in Vancouver, together with pictures made the front page in the biggest daily paper, *The Sun*.

The officers of the new local include Gordon Hafft, president; Bob Goldie, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Margaret McDougall, recording secretary.

"The Harbour Employees Association," Goldie said, "has functioned as a small independent union local since 1943 when we were first officially certified by the government as a bargaining agent."

"We negotiated for several years with different unions and finally decided on the ILWU. Being on the waterfront we felt we should join with other waterfront people."

"Our contract expires at the end of the year and we will now have the backing of the ILWU."

"We have a high wage structure, the 37½ hour guaranteed work week, four weeks holidays after 15 years service and many of the other benefits of civil servants."

"In our local we have a wide variety of members engaged in many different occupations. With these occupations now in the ILWU the jurisdiction of the union is extended to many as yet unorganized employees. We look forward to a period of growth of our local and the union."

10,177 Gain 7c Increase; & Security

HONOLULU — 10,177 ILWU sugar workers gain increased job security, seven cents an hour across the board, and a new paid holiday for a one year agreement in a settlement reached with 25 Hawaiian sugar companies January 29, two and a half days before the old agreement expired.

The agreement is subject to ratification by the membership. This is the first time in the collective bargaining history of the sugar industry that a settlement has been reached before the old agreement expired.

The substantial job security gains were the most significant in the view of ILWU Regional Director Jack Hall, who was union negotiating spokesman, but he noted that the wage gains were in excess of national guidelines. The total cost package is more than 10c an hour, Hall said.

Negotiating committee chairman Robert Kunimura noted that "the 7c puts the base wage at \$1.80 and the top rate at \$2.76½. Average earnings should run slightly under \$5,000 a year. This does not include fringe benefits worth more than \$1,000."

ILWU Secretary - Treasurer Louis Goldblatt said the agreement reflected union strength. Speaking to the full negotiating committee, which later unanimously recommended the agreement, he pointed out that negotiations took place amid uncertainty about future legislative and price developments. The union was unwilling to guarantee the employers security at the workers' expense in the form of a long-term agreement with small money gains, "Goldblatt said."

He added "the intelligent thing was to do what we did—reverse the national pattern of long-term agreements and go for a holding action—a short contract—while we see what develops. We'll be back in negotiation for a new contract in 10 months."

"We were able to get such an agreement," Goldblatt observed, "only because the employers know our membership is united and can work without an agreement for one year if necessary."

JOB SECURITY

The agreement gives workers three new protections against technological change which eliminates jobs and renders old skills obsolete:

1. Employees must be given three months notice of layoff, or three months pay in lieu thereof.

2. A policy statement on training requires the company to give the union (a) as much advance notice as possible of job eliminations and (b) the names of the employees who might be affected and (c) similar

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