Local 6 Pushes for Extensions

SAN FRANCISCO—ILWU Local 6 warehousemen here pushed ahead for pork chops and peaches with an almost unanimous vote March 15 to seek three-year contract extensions and August 1 openings on financial matters each year.

The warehousemen demanded settlement machinery without resort to strikes or locks at these openings.

They approved the union position before the National Labor Relations Board of agreement to an immediate election in all master contract houses to get Dave Bock's Teamster raiders out of their hair.

DUARTE TALKS

Local 6 is waiting for a decision from the NLRA on whether the election will be industry-wide, as suggested by a Board field examiner and approved by the union and the Distributors' Association. The Teamsters asked for house by house elections.

In San Pedro the same day Local 13 longshoremen voted to make $5,000 available to Local 6 from their strike fund after hearing from ILWU Executive Board member Oakley Le Roy and Business Agent Chil Duarte the full story of the AFL raid attempt.

Donohue Argues About the Nation's Internal Security and the Cold War

Here is the running account of the Bridges-Robertson-Schmidt trial, picking up where the last issue of The Dispatcher left off as testimony ended and arguments began.

70th Day

(March 16)

Chief Prosecutor F. Joseph Donohue opened the closing argument for the government.

Donohue wants to set the record straight as to my participation in this case,” Donohue told the jury, “because repeated reference has been made to me as Mr. Special Prosecutor.” Then he said the reason for his employment from private practice was due to the under-staffed condition of the United States Attorney’s office in San Francisco.

He said that Defense Chief Vincent Hallinan and James Martin MacInnis were likewise special counsel for the defendants, re- minding that Bridges and co-defendants, J. R. Robertson and Henry Schmidt, were previously represented by Gladstone, Anderson, Reiner and Sawyer.

Hallinan Takes Apart The Government’s Shabby Case

By MORRIS WATSON

SAN FRANCISCO—The trial of Harry Bridges, J. R. Robertson and Henry Schmidt settled down to forensics this week as attorneys for the prosecution and defense delivered final arguments.

The attorneys were in high disagreement as to the character of the defendants and the witnesses. Chief Prosecutor F. Joseph Donohue, a special man taken out of private practice to pursue the frameup, said that Robertson was “a good rabble rouser.” Schmidt was “cold and surly” and Bridges was “vain, egotistical and dangerous.”

Defense Chief Vincent Hallinan had a different idea. He said that out of the whole proceeding Bridges rose as “a rock-ribbed character of integrity.”

Prosecutor Donohue Makes Dark Hints

As many observers expected he would, Donohue made dark hints about a cold war that might become hot, the idea being that militant trade unions, such as the ILWU, ought to be destroyed before such war began.

The government was necessary to defend the character of his witnesses, but paid them no compliments when he said that the witnesses to a murder in San Quentin prison would necessarily have to be felons.

When Hallinan took the rostrum he moved the court company, and possibly the jury, by reciting the history of the 15-year-effort to get Bridges, also telling about Bridges’ building of the ILWU and his long service to it.

One by one the defense chief took the government witnesses apart and analyzed their shabby characters and their willingness to accept money and emoluments for their task.

Bridges, to be hanged or to be released? That was the choice, and Bridges was “vain, egotistical and dangerous.”

Hallinan declared this week in his final argument before the jury that Bridges was the master contract houses to get the story of The Dispatcher left off on page 2.

Donohue opened the closing argument for the defense. It was a firestorm of a speech, picking up where the last argument was left.

Hallinan ruled against MacInnis and allowed Donohue to go on.

Donohue complained belligerently about what he called “the bitter recriminations heaped upon me and my associates.” Then he said he was concerned about the internal security of the nation.

MacInnis made frequent objections to Donohue’s argument, particularly as to his assertions that the defense had the entire “nation-wide” resources of the Communist Party. The Court consistently overruled him.

In reference to the character of the government witnesses, Donohue told the jury that if a murder was committed in San Quentin and witnessed by felons it would be the felons who would have to testify.

“[You can imagine what fun a man like Hallinan would have with those witnesses],” he said.

Of the witness Mervyn Rathborne, Donohue said:

(Continued on page 2)

Caucus Set for April 5

AND 6 IN SAN PEDRO

SAN PEDRO, Calif.—A longshore, shipperlkers and bones caucus has been set for April 5 and 6 at Eugene Hall here.

Donohue Argues About the Nation's Internal Security and the Cold War

“Martial your battalions and carry the fight to the enemy.”

(Iron to back page for name of author)
Prosecutor Attacks Defense Proof of Stockton Incident

"If you believe the testimony of John Schomaker you need go no further—you have proof beyond a reasonable doubt."

Donohue referred to the testimony of Henry Schrimpf, an ILWU walking boss, against Bridges. "In his usual and skillful way," he said, "he sketched his victim drunkard." He said Schrimpf had shown that the Communist Party had paid him a mortgage upon American labor for the help it gave. Next in Donohue's argument was "that little old lady, Mrs. Irene Harris." He reminded the jury of that "that little old lady" had testified she heard Bridges urge men to join the Communist Party at a meeting in the home of John Shaw. "Won't you, Mr. Bridges call John Shaw?" Donohue demanded as he discussed Bridges' denial that he had made any such speech.

Donohue quoted Shakespeare: "The devil hath power to assume pleasing shapes." He made direct reference to the appearance of Supreme Court justices as character witnesses for Alger Hiss, and concluded, "They are innuendo to link the two trials."

He denounced bitterly the shipbuilders' claim that Bridges had given them a "bargain." He quoted the last of Louis Goldblatt (secretary-treasurer of the ILWU) they came here and said their wonder that Bridges had "WW24 of PRATING OF DEMOCRACY"

Next, Donohue quoted Judge Rathborne as "a pretty good rabble rouser." He called Harry Bridges a "bored hobo."

"Then, there is Bridges, vain, self-satisfied, a man who hides behind the skirts of his daughter as a character witness."

"And they have not the luster for a past, a fame and a fraud." He charged Bridges "seized the union for his own purposes at the whim of Soviet Russia."

He attacked Bridges also for "praying about democracy in his mind," and he that the Communist Party line. In presenting the government's case, as he crossed-examining the witnesses, I have not the luster for a past, a fame and a fraud, a man who hides behind the skirts of his daughter as a character witness."

"Bridges will regret as long as he lives the day he joined the Communist party."

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HALLINAN OPENED THE DAY WITH AN EXPRESSION OF SURPRISE THAT DONOHUE WAS IN COURT.

"I UNDERSTAND BY THE PAPERS," HE SAID, "BUT I DID NOT THINK IT NECESSARY TO COME HERE AT A TIME WHEN THE COURT IS BUSY WITH THE CASE OF MRS. MANN."

Macintosh, who was in the courtroom at the time of the incident, testified that he had seen Hallinan open the door of the Mann case and enter the courtroom. He testified that Hallinan then closed the door and talked to Macintosh for a few minutes before leaving the courtroom.

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State Council Fights for Its Charter

SAN FRANCISCO—The California CIO Council continued the battle against the ILWU for a third week, announcing plans to ask a contempt of court ruling against National Maritime's representative in California.

Robert L. Leonard, CIO Presid- ent Philip Murray's designee for take over the Council, and others have been called to a conven- tion in Long Beach May 10 to set up a new council, despite a court restraining order directing maintenance of the status quo.

BAKED ALUMINUM

Superior Judge Theresa Meikle last week held that the state council's contention that the restraining order should be made permanent is not supported by evi- dence to be presented by affidavit.

Testimony so far, from Council Secretary Joreen Hallinan and Re- search Director Paul Pinky, de- livered among frequent objec- tions from the ILWU's William D. Wrin, has developed National CIO's failure to finance given charges to the ILWU and the stacking of the Cleveland con- vention agenda for the summer elections on the ILWU's charges.

A motion at DAIWU's stated that the Council court action "has been a conspiracy of the ILWU and a union of which Meikle remarked quietly that she could 'Remember when the CIO was formed and everyone who went in the building was called a Communist.'"

Bridges would place his whole schedule at the disposal of Scho- maker when he knew he would be "red with suspicion."

"There is no possibility in the world that Harry Bridges ever cooperated with Russia to gain- support in the Communist Party,"" he said. "I have seen him at Communist meetings when hysteria was raised against Catholics and cases were brought against them. The verdict was death because a document was found in which he had committed suicide. He said he was then facing a warrant of arrest for deportation. He also re- marked on the improbability of Bridges risking his security by attending and speaking at a Commu- nist Party convention where records were kept by 25 or 30 people.

FOLLY AND STUPIDITY

"Folly and stupidity!" he said of Harry Bridges might walk into a meeting of 1,000 otherwise he may have been a Communist when such action would subject him to immediate arrest. He asked why it was that not one of the thou- sand people at the convention, aside from Crouch and Johnson, had come forward to testify in support of Bridges.

"Are they going to tell us they have not been present?"

The defense chief devoted most of the afternoon to this contradic- tion: How could Harry Bridges join the Communist Party and on the other hand be a member of the Communist Party so that he was not a Communist?

"Two hundred and sixty years as a member of a people like yourself who took an oath to give a Senate of 200 to the children of two people. These people had hearts to break, children to orphan. They were charged with witch- craft."

He recited the witchcraft trial in Salem of Bridget Bishop.

"The verdict was death by hanging. The after her died away all the jurors but one, the Cooks and Firemen re- moved —but what fear did it wipe away?"

With emotional fervor, Halli- nan demanded of the jury it not be guided by bias.

Judge Rules Against One Matson Suit

HONOLULU, T. H.—Federal Judge Delbert Metzger last week dismissed Matson Navigation's charges against the ILWU. Under the Matson suit, the ILWU will have to bear all its damages against the union.

The ILWU's damages from 3,500,000 and the second damages against the other two unions used, the Ma- tson suit a Federal Maritime Fire- men.

Matson filled for $5,800,000 damages from the three unions last December after the victorious long dock strike during which the Cooks and Firemen re- ceived work back. The ILWU picked lines.

Judge Metzger's dismissal was based on the "first duty of citizen- ship" required in federal courts.

"The fact is that the long dock strike, ILWU Local 136 members March 1 received their entire damages on top of the 14 cents they won on returning to work last October, bringing the base rate to $1.61.