Local 6 Is Solid Over at Colgate-Palmolive

BERKELEY, Calif.—As the Local 6 strike against Colgate-Palmolive-Peet goes into its third week, ILWU officials broke off negotiations with the company on June 30.

Reason for rupture of negotiations was the fact that the company insists on "negotiating" to take away all the gains ILWU workers have made since the plant was first organized.

The strike began on June 11 when 500 workers hit the bricks owing to the refusal of the company to bargain in good faith. The company wants seniority provisions weakened, wants the bonus to fire workers without cause during a so-called "probationary" period, and is attempting to whittle down many of the other gains made by CPP workers.

LOCAL 6 DEMANDS

ILWU workers at CPP are solid in backing up their union's demands on the company. These are:

1. 11/2 cent an hour wage raise; 2. reinstatement of three stewards and one other worker, who were fired for their militant union activities; 3. a clause guaranteeing workers transferred to lower-paid jobs, forbidding union activity on company time and property, etc.; 4. no discrimination for reasons of property, etc.; 5. paid jobs; forbidding union activity on company time and property, etc.; 6. reinstatement of three stewards and one other worker, who were fired for their militant tinfoil activity; 7. a clause guaranteeing their legitimate union activities; 8. restrictions on union stewards in the plant; reductions in pay for their militant tinfoil activity; 9. increased requirements for workers transferred to lower-paid jobs; forbidding union activity on company time and property, etc.; 10. increased requirements for workers transferred to lower-paid jobs; forbidding union activity on company time and property, etc.; 11. the company to bargain in good faith. The company insists on "negotiating" to take away all the gains ILWU workers have made since the CPP contract, as it was present in ILWU's contract, and had been since 1934.

A total of 1,125 longshoremen, shipworkers, walking bosses and others who are members of ILWU retired from their waterfront jobs up and down the Pacific Coast July 1 and drew their first monthly checks of $100, which is supplemented by their social security benefits of from $60 to $80. In addition to the payments the retiring dockers also receive life insurance and lifetime health care for themselves and their dependents.

Retirement was under the pension plan negotiated last year by the ILWU and the Pacific Maritime Association, which pays 15 cents per hour to finance it.

1,125 retired July 1 will be followed by approximately 2,000 more as they grow eligible during the ten year life of the plan. Men are eligible at age of 65 and 25 years on the waterfront. Retirement at 68 with 35 years is mandatory.

At the end of 18 years 20 per cent of the entire dock working force of the Pacific Coast will be retired from the industry.

A small group of longshoremen in the East Bay have announced themselves a dock strike for the duration, to support their striking brothers and sisters.

Who Said It?

"Strikes have no place in the Christian world."

(Reply to Last Page for Name of Author)
Hail, But No Farewell!

MORRIS WATSON, EDITOR
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THE BEAM
By Harry Bridges

SOUNDS just like the Truman administration, doesn’t it? But it was King George III of England, and in some ways he was a piker compared with what we’ve got right now.

For George III never drafted American colonists during peace-time; he never sent Americans overseas in peace-time; he never declared war for us without our consent ... cuttings off our trade with all parts of the world ... depriving us in many cases of the benefits of Trial by Jury ...

OTT IS, PERHAPS, the next thing to poetically justice that the oldtimers themselves are the chief beneficiaries of this crowning achievement of their union. We say chief beneficiaries advisedly, because the whole union, every member of it, shares a benefit. Younger longshoremen and shippers have gained greater work opportunity, and to other dividends of the union an achievable goal has yet to achieve.

To the oldtimers, a salute, a hail, but no farewell. They remain a part of the union and their sage advice will be sought from time to time. We wish them happy hunting and happy enjoyment of their benefi
cients, and from our hearts we thank them for their contribution to the building of the union and the maintenance of its solidarity.

Most of them have been with us since the 1934 strike. They know, therefore, the entire history of our union, the struggles it has engaged in, the achievements is has won.

They therefore constitute a group of ambassadors-at-large — ambassadors of good will who can inform the public of what ILWU stands for and where it is going.

We are proud of them and hope they will always be proud of ILWU.

P WORKING men and women want a government that truly represents them, they will have to elect one.

If they want a government that does not tax them without permitting them representation in Congress, they will have to elect candidates who will do their will — politicians working men and women themselves — not candidates chosen for them by bank directors, gangsters, cheap wheelers and crooked politicians.

If they want a government that will work for peace instead of war, that will carry on the purposes of the Declaration and the guarantees of the Constitution, they will have to elect candidates who will do their will — politicians working men and women themselves.

Only by the workers’ active participation in the democratic process can American democracy truly be made to work in the interests of the majority of its citizens. Just as ILWU can only exist as a democratic union so long as the rank and file are active and loyal elected officers, especially local ones, to be active in its affairs.

On July 1, more than twelve hundred old-time longshoremen and shipclerks hung up their cargo hooks for the last time and drew pension checks — the first time in the history of the maritime industry that such has been drawn on the worker level.

These twelve hundred will be followed into retirement by another eighteen hundred old-timers as they reach 65 years of age and 25 years of service during the ten years of the ILWU-PMA pension plan.

Up and down the coast the various locals have held or are in the process of holding banquets in honor of their retired oldtimers, and it is well and fitting that they should do so, fitting not only because the oldtimers merit it, but fitting as well because it serves to remind us that many benefits that we younger people in the union now take for granted didn’t come to us on any easy road.

No, the gains were fought for. And doing the fighting when the struggle was rugged were the oldtimers now retired or in prospect of retiring during the next ten years.

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Air Force Soldier Admits Hallinan Extortion Attempt

SAN FRANCISCO — Leonard Pratt, 31, years old and an Air Force corporal at Hamilton Field, charged on June 23 that he was the would-be extortioner who demanded $2,000 from Mrs. Vincent Hallinan, of her six children if the money was not forthcoming.

Pratt, who had been picked up on suspicion of burglarizing an automobile agency in San Francisco and threatening the family of the automobile agent, con- fessed on June 23 that he was afraid to meet her. He claimed any of the Hallinan children, or members of the family of the prominent San Francisco hospital for mental patients, would be killed by the automobile dealer. He said that he had been told by the automobile seller, who was feared one of his attempted murderers as Thomas Giblin, leader of the automobile seller.

ITEM: On June 18, "Lefty" Reed, another of the "Five," was arrested for pulling a gun. He was released by Judge John MacMahon, who said it was "only a technical violation" of the law!

ITEM: On June 4, at 1 a.m. George Kain, a stenographer, was shot on the Lurline (and a member of the independent National Union of Marine and Naval Workers) was shot and entered the San Francisco police in a public bar before numerous terrified witnesses. He identified one of his attempted murderers as Thomas Giblin, leader of the automobile seller.

ITEM: On June 19, Terry Ruff, another of Lundeberg's "organi- zers," pulled out a pistol and allegedly played "Russian roulette" with it. Luckily, he only killed himself.

ITEM: Leonard Pratt was shot in San Francisco Hospital for mental examination.

Japanese Workers Hit 'Red' Bill

TOKYO — Unions representing 726,000 Japanese workers struck on Friday, April 18, in protest against a proposed piece of legislation called the "Subversive Activities Prevention Bill."

This strike was started by a general strike called by Japanese trade unions in protest against this piece of legislation, which defines "subversive activities" in so broad a manner as to include most legiti- mate trade union activities.

The unions involved in the pro- test included: Coal miners (700,000); metal miners (70,000); railroad workers (130,000); seamens (137,000); and electrical workers (130,000).

Several of these unions participat- ed in the first protest strike on April 12, but all walked out in 6- and 8-hour walkouts on the 18th.

Since the war ended in 1945 there have been repeated strikes and demonstrations in Japan where the right to bargain colle- ctively and strike has been practically nullified by American occupation authorities, and con- tinued to be nullified now that Japan is nominally "independent."

Hawaii Dockers Get Wage Raise

HONOLULU, Feb. — I.L.W.U longshoremen, members of Local 209, won a new two-year agreement with a wage re- view committee on June 20, which provides for:

1. A wage increase effective May 18, 1952, that brings the longshoreman up to $1.34 an hour; effective October 16, the straight time rate will go to $1.34 an hour.

2. A pension plan borne solely by the industry, which will con- tribute 14 cents an hour.

3. Medical plan agreed upon, to be drawn up, which calls for $6 a month from the employer and $3 a month from the employee, jointly administered by a Board of Trustees.
Here are some sample pages of a souvenir booklet containing the names of ILWU waterfront oldtimers who retired July 1 or will retire during the next ten years under the ILWU-PMA pension plan.

Part, but not all of the text is also included here. The booklet recites the big gains made by the union from 1934 on and up to welfare and pensions. It contains more than 3,000 names and is being presented at local banquets being held up and down the coast in honor of the oldtimers.
Only less than a score of years ago conditions of labor on the waterfronts of Pacific Coast ports were miserable indeed. Pay was low, and even part of that had to be kicked back in one form or another. Work was when you got it and strictly according to a system of favoritism and payoffs.

Men were hired from off the docks and through fink halls, and many more men were kept available than there were jobs.

There was no security, no dignity in the work. Conditions were little better than in the days of the old sailing vessels when the word “longshoremans” came into being through the rounding up of beachcombers by the cry for “Men along the shore!”

Stevedoring was an industry of crooked bosses and tramplabor. Efforts to organize were bitterly and bloodedly resisted. Strikes were broken and the men who fought to organize a union to improve conditions and achieve some dignity were blacklisted.

After a strike had been broken in 1919, a company union known as the bluebook union was set up in San Francisco, the largest of the Pacific Coast ports. This was in order to prevent any resurgence of genuine organization, and the company union functioned to enforce the employers’ blacklist on a coastwise basis. All the other ports had “fink halls for hiring.”

Conditions grew worse and worse and the resentment deeper and deeper until in 1934 the men revolted against them. A maritime strike tied up the whole West Coast for three months and resulted in a general strike in San Francisco after the governor had called out the National Guard.

Eight maritime workers paid with their lives in the struggle. Two workers were killed, shot down by police in each of the four major ports. It would not be inappropriate to consider the sacrifice of these martyrs as opening the way for the era of gains that were to be made from 1934 on, an era that culminated in 1952 by realization of the greatest of them all.

This, then, is the story of an era of progress on the waterfront told in terms of the gains made by longshoremen and shclerks through their militance and union strength.

Dock workers of the ILWU and their families now constitute the largest industrial group ever to be covered by health insurance. No longer are unexpected doctor’s bills, laboratorv fees and hospital costs a cause of fear and panic in the dock worker’s home.

The ILWU-PMA Welfare plan, negotiated in 1949, was put into operation in 1950 with the employees contributing 5 cents a man hour. As of June 15, this year, that contribution was increased to 7 cents an hour in order to maintain and improve the service.

The welfare plan is working, not perfectly—but working and improving and there is nobody who would want to give it up, except to change it for something better, such as a union medical center.

Pensions for the Oldtimers now crown the achievements of the union, and it is a significant tribute to the union and its militance that the ILWU-PMA pension plan finds so many oldtimers on the job to receive pensions.

Eligible to retire during the ten years of the plan will be 20 percent of the entire dock working force. Only because of the hiring halls was it possible to keep these oldtimers on the waterfront.

The ILWU Pension plan, in all respects, is one of the best in the country, inasmuch as a great deal more than a similar plan in some other industries, for instance those industries such as auto where the speedup on the assembly line either kills the workers before retirement age or drives them off the job before eligibility is reached.

Unique, also, in this plan are that in addition to getting $100 a month plus regular social security benefits longshoremen and shclerks will receive medical care for the rest of their lives and life insurance without cost. So far as it is known that is not matched by any other plan anywhere in the country.

This month, July, 1952, more than twelve hundred longshoremen will hang up their cargo hooks for the last time and turn to the pleasures of secure retirement. Appropriately another 2,000 will follow as they retire at age 65 and 22 years on the job. They have been earning average annual incomes of $5,795 during their later years. Many of them own their own homes. They are far from the social outcasts they were a score of years ago, and they retire with deserved dignity and the respect of their fellow workers and neighbors.
Bridges SUIP Strike a Phony: Harry Lundeberg Vants ILWU Jobs

New ILWU Auxiliary Is Formed in St. Helens Ore.

Protest Grows in Hawaii Over Anti-Labor Movie

The UMW editorial then expresses the position of the United Mine Workers, which is the union of coal miners, that the War on Poverty is a cover-up for the coal mining industry. The editorial argues that the War on Poverty is a way to expand the coal mining industry and that the federal government is using the poverty program to keep coal miners unemployed.

The editorial also criticizes the War on Poverty for not addressing the root causes of poverty, such as the low wages and unsafe working conditions that coal miners face. The editorial suggests that the War on Poverty is a way for the government to avoid addressing these issues and instead shift the blame to the coal mining industry.

The editorial ends by calling on the government to confront the real issues that are causing poverty, such as low wages and unsafe working conditions, and to provide real solutions to help coal miners and other working-class Americans.
San Francisco—Carloads of 26,000-ton ore, usually shipped to Japan, are now being sent to Europe, where they have been taken over by the British National Iron and Steel Co. This is the largest single ore shipment ever made to Europe.

The ore was shipped from the Calumet & Hecla Co.'s mines in Michigan, and is expected to reach Britain within the next 10 days.

This move is part of a larger strategy by the United States to increase its exports to Europe in order to strengthen the dollar. The ore is a high-grade variety, which is in high demand in Britain for use in the manufacture of steel.

The British National Iron and Steel Co. is one of the largest steel producers in the world, and this shipment is expected to boost its production significantly. The ore is expected to arrive in Britain on the 20th of the month.
Eureka Meeting: A long promised but often postponed meeting of the Northern California District Council of Longshore, Seafarers and Warehousemen was held on July 26 in Eureka, Calif. The meeting was called by the Council, under the chairmanship of Harry Bridges of Local 10, and was attended by delegates from all locals in the Northern California area. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current working conditions and to plan for future action to improve them. The meeting was well attended, with representatives from Local 10, Local 209, Local 210, and other locals in attendance. The meeting was adjourned with a call for a special meeting to be held in San Francisco on August 15, to discuss the results of the national convention of the ILWU. The meeting was well received by the delegates, who were encouraged to continue their efforts to improve working conditions and to support the union in its struggle against management.