Hail Hawaii Gains; Longshore, Warehouse Parleys Continue

ILWU PMA Agree on Extension

SAN FRANCISCO— The ILWU Coast Negotiating Committee, representing longshore and ship clerks locals, has been negotiating with the Pacific Maritime Association following a mutual agreement to extend the strike, past the June 15 expiration date. Progress was reported by the negotiating committee, with the 8-hour day the primary item under discussion. The Committee went into agreement that the proposals to be dealt with include wage demands, registration transfers and improved vacation provisions for both longshoremen and seamen.

On June 11 a joint press release was issued by ILWU and PMA stating agreement had been reached to continue work under existing contracts until final settlements are reached, with the understanding that items finally agreed to will be effective as of June 16, 1958.

RETROACTIVITY

In a letter to all locals, the Coast Negotiating Committee noted that the extension of longshore and ship clerks' contract was negotiated, to provide wages and hours, the sugar workers' new contract maintains medical dues at a level, which kept spirits high, families united and victory inevitable.

126-Day Sugar Strike Victory Wins Wage Package, Improved Conditions

SAN FRANCISCO— All ILWU dock locals were advised, immedi-ately on conclusion of the sugar strike, that the $9 per month wage agreement reached by the ILWU through the Coast Negotiating Committee, and approved by all locals, was no longer needed. Dissolution of the money was left to the discretion of each local.

Sugar Assessment

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HONOLULU—Unity, solidarity, a will to win and 126 days on the picket line paid off here earlier this month when ILWU Local 142 negotiators reached agreement with twenty-six Hawaiian sugar plantations which have been strike-bound since Feb. 1.

The agreement, ratified almost unanimously by the 13,700 rank and file strikers provides pay hikes and other cash benefits averaging more than 23 cents an hour. In addition to winning a substantial increase in hourly wages, the sugar workers' new contract maintains medical dues at a level, which kept spirits high, families united and victory inevitable.

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HERE STANDS THE POWER

By Harry Bridges

THE SUGAR STRIKE in Hawaii has been won. After 126 days on strike the union marked up major gains and came out of the battle stronger and more unified than ever before. Elsewhere in this issue of The Dispatcher, William McCall of the International longshoremen's union discusses the sugar strike in detail, along with a full account of the magnificent rank and file dedication and cooperation which went into making it a success.

In days such as these when major unions around the country are settling for straight contract extensions or trivial improvements, the Hawaii settlement has no mean significance. It says something about what kind of a union the ILWU is and how we go about taking care of our own hands. And it says that the settlement alone we can be proud of the job carried through by our members in the Islands. There was a job well done and they deserve every congratulation from this part of the union.

But the Hawaii sugar strike cannot be measured by just rounding up the gains won. There was a kind of colonial hangover. Whatever the explanation, it should be buried somewhere as a relic from the past.

We can work out satisfactory relations with the Hawaii employers as we have with employers elsewhere. But it can’t be done so long as there is any kind of a mutual admiration society. We’re a long way from the day when we can view our democracy with pardonable pride.

And more than pride, we can count the practical gains that such democratic rank and file control brings. By the same token, one could write a depressing account of the things that have been lost to other workers by their lack of democracy; a list of losses sustained when the employers are supposed to stand—-that in hand—hoping to get a little more. Whether or not there will be anything left around and how much, has always proved to be something that is left in the employer’s quiet way, and according to their whims and fancies.

We hope that this strike has finally gotten some people on the other side to realize that the day when employers worked are over. The sugar workers expect no preferred treatment, but there can be no question of equating class citizens lacking in both brains and intelligence. The quicker the employers’ side has gotten their’s right down the line and the quicker the other side has realized that some people still haven’t figured out the score.

The employers’ side has gotten their’s right down the line and everyone on the sugar side has been that tough, you don’t have to work twice to make it stick. But then if you’re that tough, you don’t have to waste your time bargaining. All you have to do is go in and tell the employers what you want, and let them fight their own battle. We know the employers will just have to get the hard way and eat whatever they have to eat.

Nothing better expresses the Big Five point of view than their "this-is-it" approach to collective bargaining. After everyone on the sugar side has gotten their’s right down the line and the employers’ side has gotten theirs right down the line and the cream has been separated off, the workers are supposed to stand—-that in hand—hoping to get a little more. Whether or not there will be anything left around and how much, has always proved to be something that is left in the employer’s quiet way, and according to their whims and fancies.

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Along with this there has been traditional policy of "manums," and token wage increases. A few cents now, a few cents next. The only way this can be quiet without meeting them.

This approach is dead from here on in. We expect to bargain in Hawaii in the future exactly as we do on the mainland.

There’s all kinds of nonsense mixed up in collective bargaining in the Islands. For example, "token wage increases."
Douglas: Right to Travel is a Part of Liberty

WASHINGTON, D. C. — In another significant civil liberties decision, the Supreme Court, in this week ruled that the State Department has no authority to deny passports to individuals after inquiring into an applicant’s beliefs and associations.

Justice William O. Douglas, writing the majority opinion of the 5-4 decision, said:

"Under the regulations, the purpose of the citizen's travel is irrelevant. Thus, here, the department did not challenge the petitioners' stated interest in traveling to attend a medical convention, and in the proposed film projects. In each case, the department ruled that the claims of past political associations constituted a bar to his travel 'regardless of the purposes.'"

The majority opinion in the Supreme Court was written by Douglas, with Justices Earl Warren, Justice Hugo Black, Felix Frankfurter and William J. Brennan concurring. The majority opinion, written by Justice Byron R. White, and reported by the Employment Act of 1946, is 17 years the Secretary is to remit

"Warmest congratulations on your birthday and best wishes. All of us here were elated at the court's decision. Let's hope that a passport will be available to you in far better days, when the Japanese fishermen from San Francisco where you have so many loyal friends."

The high court considered, opinion, said:

"The court considered, a bill to state department policy, which denies passports to Americans in the arts, sciences and professions. The decision came on appeal by arists Rockwell Kent — an honorary member of ILWU — and psychiatrist Walter Brinton. Both were denied passports in 1958 after they refused to sign so-called "non-communist affidavits" as a condition for travel.

The high court ruled was delivered five days before Rockwell Kent's 76th birthday, and while he was recovering from an operation. The world famed painter, commented at his home in Ausable Forks, New York, that he thought the case was 'a matter of principle.' The court found:

"The right to travel is a part of the liberty of which the citizen cannot be deprived, without the due process of law of the Fifth Amendment."

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In the background of the recent sugar strike is a fundamental question as old as the trade union movement. It is this: Shall workers get only what is left of what they create by their sweat — after others have taken out their profits? Or shall the worker be considered first among those getting their just share?

After a strike of 126 days, ILWU sugar workers of Hawaii broke through to victory. The basic question was whether they would be forced to remain in an inferior status, as a kind of "colonial union." The third big test started on February 1, 1958.

Not a Wheel Turned For 126 Days

Not a wheel turned for 126 days. The solidarity, understanding and determination of the men, women and children directly affected by the strike was a splendid tribute to the organization and to the fighting spirit of these workers and their families.

13,700 strikers — totaling, with their families approximately 40,000 men, women and children — challenged one of the most powerful combinations of employers in the entire United States. Although the union had made great progress since organization of the sugar industry, wages are still lower than average American living standards.

The sugar workers — who had made up their own mind, after much discussion and a secret democratic ballot to go on strike — knew it would be a long and difficult struggle. They entered the strike with very slim resources and the need to stretch every available dollar to make do. This they did with an unexampled ingenuity, cooperation and teamwork.

Long before the strike deadline, they started their own vegetable gardens and kept them going all through the strike. Teams went hunting and fishing.

A hot meal for every striker, his wife and children, was the daily diet. Soup kitchens were set up on every island, and by

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Sugar strikers cleaning up a churchyard as part of the planned community activities, which saw others tend long-neglected cemeteries, tidying up school yards, painting Salvation Army headquarters and much else to benefit the whole community.

Everywhere They Worked the Good Earth

Everywhere they worked the good earth, in many cases turning virgin land, to cultivate and plant and harvest beans, beets, cucumbers, lettuce and anything that could be grown. This they did together, each man, woman and child working together for the group.

Soup kitchens were set up on every island, and by

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A man who is a mechanic, or irrigator on work days, puts on an ancient Samurai warrior costume to perform one of the traditional dances of Okinawa for the entertainment of fellow strikers. A dramatic story is acted out as the work-picket of the day becomes transformed at night into an ancient Samiur warrior riding through a dangerous forest.

A hot meal for every striker, his wife and children, was the daily diet. Soup kitchens furnished the fresh vegetables which were watched — and the men brought in the fish and

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These vegetables grown by strikers for the sugar workers' soup kitchen are turned out in the shadow of the huge trucks whose wheels did not turn while the strike lasted.

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the time the strike was over they were serving over two million meals a month. The average cost of these meals, basic diet, was exceedingly low, approximately 10 cents per meal.

The wives of the strikers pitched in with work around the soup kitchens, canning and preserving foods, taking care of individual family unit problems and the many other matters that arose when 40 thousand men, women and children join in a struggle of this sort.

The children were fully aware of the importance of the strike to their parents and to themselves, and what it meant to them in terms of their standards of living, their self-respect, and their role in the community. Hot lunches were brought to the school grounds for the children of the strikers throughout the strike.

The strikers also became involved in doing things for the community during this period. Picket duty in many cases included such chores as cleaning up and improving school grounds, clearing up neglected cemeteries, clearing away timber and brush from various areas and similar community projects — for the good of the entire island population.

**Human Side of Strike Will Be Remembered**

When all the statistics are finally written — the days in the picket line, the millions of meals served, the tests of paper printed, the thousands of man hours and miles spent on the picket line — what will probably be best remembered by the strikers and their families is what they did to help each other out; how they played together as good friends to each other; how they took care of one another and looked after each other; how they helped to build a better world to live in. They served meals to strikers during the 126 days on the picket line. These were some of the brutalities of the "good old days" before the union came to Hawaii and challenged the super-profiteering control of the Big Five in the sugar industry.

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Part of a three-panel fresco mural in Honolulu headquarters of the ILWU, painted by the famed Mexican artist Pablo O'Higgins, shows some of the brutality of the "good old days" before the union came to Hawaii and challenged the super-profiteering control of the Big Five in the sugar industry.

**Employer Tries to Use Health as Weapon**

Simultaneously with these developments there were a number of employer ultimatums. One such ultimatum that infuriated the workers in Hawaii, as well as mainland unionists, was the notification by the employers that they intended to terminate medical plan coverage as of June 1. Here was another example of the Big Five trying to use the suffering of men, women and children as a weapon to break a strike.

The union was convinced that these ultimatums, together with the employers' unconditional acceptance of the governor's proposal, were preliminary to an all-out back-to-work drive: that this drive would be augmented by a public relations campaign by the employers stating that they had done their patriotic duty in accepting the governor's proposal; that the time had come to put this union in its place; and that it was the duty of all Hawaii's citizens to go out and save the can fields which had suffered severe damage and thereby preserve the economy of Hawaii.

The union decided the only way to insure the successful continuation of the strike, to force negotiations on basic issues still outstanding, and to prevent the damage that might result from mass hysteria, was to continue to provide medical aid to the strikers. This was done. It was a program that required a maximum degree of understanding and discipline by the membership; it meant that some men would be put back to work and others would continue on strike. It would also open up the possibility of the employers trying to use discrimination or favoritism to split the ranks. The discipline and the understanding on the part of the strikers after almost four months on the picket line was such that they took the entire program in stride.

Finally a settlement was worked out which met all the issues raised by the union and took care of the weaknesses in the governor's proposal. The pension plan was improved and extended. The severance pay agreement was cleaned up and the whole agreement provided that there would be no lay-offs in the following year as a result of the strike. Lay-offs only take place by mutual consent.

Rather than a wage opening at the end of two years, which would again create a situation where the union might be compelled to gamble everything on the issue of wages alone, agreement was reached on an automatic 7 cents to go into effect at that time.

**Only 40-Hour Week For Farm Workers in US**

PROVISIONS were made that during the life of the agreement the remaining plantations still working more than a 40-hour week during part of the year, would go on a 40-hour week schedule. This is perhaps the first agricultural industry anywhere in the United States with such a 40-hour week provision.

Thus the strike came to an end. The total package won by the workers was a little over 25 cents. More important, the union firmly believes that the pattern of bargaining in Hawaii has been changed and that the Big Five realizes that the demands of sugar workers must be dealt with on their merits — not in terms of taking care of everyone else first.

The union believes there are very good prospects that labor relations in the future will be on a healthier basis. "On our part," the union said, "we intend to do whatever is necessary to promote our best interests and the best interests of our members."

The victory would never have been possible without the support of the mainland, the Territorial Strike Strategy Committee said. Not only the very substantial money support received, but also the fact that the workers were aware that much more financial help was available when it was needed.

Even more important than the victory was the fact that the strike demonstrated how to resolve the problem of the ever-increasing labor and financial needs. The strike demonstrated that labor solidarity could be brought to bear to save the can fields in Hawaii. It was a demonstration of labor solidarity combined with the sympathy and support of the workers of the mainland.

A letter sent by Local 142 to all ILWU locals, other unions and supporters, said in announcing victory: "On behalf of the 40,000 men, women and children who went through this battle, we want to express our heartfelt thanks for the support, assistance and solidarity which was forthcoming from not only the membership of our own union, but from many other branches of labor and from many friends outside the labor movement."

"Thanks again, and aloha."

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Newest Local

Installed as Local 27 of Port Angeles, Washington, on June 18, 1958, were its members the most recent longshoremen to become affiliated with ILWU. Standing at rear, from left to right are: Charles Sallin, Arthur Biar, Charles Anderson, Joe Hagen, George Runbaugh, James Blagden, Robert Cass, dispatcher, Clair Nowell, James Root, secretary, and Fred Klime, local president. A group of men from the San Francisco Longshoremen's Union joined the group at left to attend the meeting and took the oaths along with the working members. The men, all right to left, are: Percy Boelter, Ed Queeen, Harry Brown, James Morton and Bill Bond.

Auxiliaries Set Sights on Defeating Right to Wreck

NORTH BEND, Ore.—Uppermost in a program for action of ILWU Local 34A, auxiliaries are the right to unionize. Organizing for the first time in the state of Washington and California on the so-called "right-to-work" issue, local ILWU auxiliaries were on Monday, June 18, 1958, a letter to all West Coast auxiliary members in support of the community, median income and preventing the workers from winning.

With the check came a letter signed by Bill Mill, that will make all previous victories of the union which said, "This is in apparent violation of the anti-labor legislation," the auxiliary officials stated.

"Defining plans for coordinating their activities to this end, it was reported that four district councils of ILWU auxiliaries have agreed to exchange summarized minutes among themselves as a means for keeping each other with happenings in the various areas.

Inability to also pay aid assistance interest all members in the bill, HR 12310, introduced by Congresswoman Harriet S. Herbert (D), for a "program for peace." The bill proposes the establishment in the United Nations of a special fund for "United Nations investment in peace." The fund would be supported by contributions from individuals and would be used for technical assistance and economic development of underdeveloped countries, and expansion of cultural exchange programs.

Labor Paper Warns Of Dirty Campaign

OAKLAND — An editorial warning was voiced by the AFL-CIO, saying that the people are assured of obtaining quality of service be made available to all eligible persons. In 1955, for example, the American Dental Association summarized minutes among themselves in accordance with the American Hospital Association, the American Dental Association and the American Medical Association. The committee summed up its objections to the Medicare proposal by saying: "We have found that people who want to transfer from one plan to another have to sign them at the Locals now only if they want to transfer to another plan for the coming year.

AMA Opposes Proposals To Spread Health Benefits

The American Medical Association opposes the proposals of the National Economic Council and other groups that would make available to all eligible persons. In 1955, for example, the American Dental Association summarized minutes among themselves in accordance with the American Hospital Association, the American Dental Association and the American Medical Association. The committee summed up its objections to the Medicare proposal by saying: "We have found that people who want to transfer from one plan to another have to sign them at the Locals now only if they want to transfer to another plan for the coming year.

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Shibley to Be Released; Plan Welcome Fete

SAN PEDRO — A "Welcome Home Dinner" for Atty. George E. Shibley, who will be released from the Terminal Island Work Home June 22, will be held Monday evening, June 22, at Cigaro's Restaurant, 9th and Pacific Ave.

The affair, which starts with cocktails at 7 p.m., is under the sponsorship of ILWU Local 26 Warehouse News. Tickets may be obtained at any of these four union headquarters.

Shibley had been found guilty of frame-up charges following his successful defense of a Local 13 member in a Marine Corps Court Martial, and sentenced to prison for three years.

Post-Election Advice: Don't 'Slumber Smugly'

SAN FRANCISCO — "The Trial Which Should Never Have Taken Place" was the government's error that forced the Bridges-Robertson- Schmitt defense committee, the B-R-S Defense Committee, the union and the defendants to go to the trouble and expense to fight on improper litigation.

The government, it says, should therefore be stopped from claiming taxes on money raised and expended because of its "inherent understanding of the applicable legal principles."

In addition, Bridges' tax return for 1952 was filed more than 6 years before the date that the assessment was made. Therefore, the action is barred by the statute of limitations.

The petition requests a trial by jury, in San Francisco, with no date set.

Protest B-R-S Tax Demand; Petition Court to Correct Government Errors

San Francisco — Union attorneys last week filed petitions with the U.S. District Court in San Francisco, alleging that to assess taxes on income of new rules being developed to enable the persecution to continue. The petition noted, "to apply a new rule now to petitioners is unconstitutional . . . , and therefore the petition is barred by the statute of limitations."

Also indicated were innumerable instances where money spent by one person on the interest of another has never been taxed or considered income to the person on whom the money is spent. Examples, outside of the ACLU and NAACP, were monies spent by corporations for the payments of fines and legal expenses for officers under Sherman Anti-Trust prosecutions, etc.

NEW RULES FOR BRIDGES

Ever since the many prosecutions of Bridges began there has been a history of new rules being developed to enable the persecution to continue. The petition noted, "to apply a new rule now to petitioners is unconstitutional . . . , and therefore the petition is barred by the statute of limitations."

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The petition requests a trial by jury, in San Francisco, with no date set.

"There's a Small Hotel With a Wishing Well"
Tlie resounding victory by Hawaiian sugar workers marks the end of the longest industrywide strike in ILWU history. And behind it there's more guts, sweat and tears than most of us have come in contact with in a long, long time.

There is a lot one can say, and with great admiration, about the magnificent job done by the leadership in the Hawaii strike—the rank and file strike committee, the local and international officers.

But we can't talk too much about the job done by the rank and file—the workers and their families whose guts, sweat, tears and strength make up the base which brings victory in any struggle. Every part of the family became an integral part of the strike itself. And it's no exaggeration to point out that most any striker's teenage child is old enough to understand the background to this struggle. It isn't too many years back that some can remember, or have heard their parents tell about the time when workers in the Islands lived in barracks, were actually brutalized; and most can remember that it isn't too back that they lived in a kind of feudal-colonialism, even on American soil, when a man who had the courage to speak up might be doomed to starve; when families were kept apart; and workers were encouraged to cut each other's throats on the basis of racial, national, religious or other of the devices to divide and conquer.

So a unified rank and file and leadership whose strength flowed from this unity, won a historic strike in Hawaii because it could well spell the end of the feudal-colonial arrogance of the past employers.

It's no small thing to repeat that this was the longest strike of all ILWU history. The length of this struggle exposed that the bosses' primary interest was to keep the workers "in their place."

What is their "place"? To be subjugated, to forget to fight, to be afraid, and to accept whatever is offered them by the skimpy Big Five.

But the workers' movement has been clearly proven. Recall their original cry that the money wasn't available. That the workers would lose it. workers were kept apart; and workers were encouraged to cut each other's throats on the basis of racial, national, religious or other of the devices to divide and conquer.

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