Mistreated Pakistani Sailors Strike, Find Support Friends on SF Dock

By Sidney Roger

SAN FRANCISCO—This was the scene in front of Pier 23 on the Embarcadero last Tuesday as ILWU longshoremen spoke for the TV cameras, radio microphones and an assembled of newsmen:

"We have better garbage on American ships."

"We wouldn't take anything like that. We'd fight instead."

"I wouldn't feed it to my dog."

"I'd feed it to the captain."

These comments concerned a small spread of stinking fish and vegetables on the sidewalk in front of Pier 23.

Chalked in huge capital letters:

"This food not fit for pigs."

"I wouldn't feed it to my dog."

"I'd feed it to the captain."

Chalked in huge capital letters:

"This food—large putrescent sardines that could even be used for bait, spoiled vegetables. They said in the valley the rice and flour was wormy."

The unlit food (see picture below)—wild sardines of what goes by the name of fish—were thrown away by the Pakistani crewmen who had just walked off the Dutch ship Friesland because the food was observably rotten, they claimed maltreatment, and some had been beaten. They were sick and tired of being overworked, underpaid and treated as less than human beings.

The base pay of an ordinary seaman is $30 a month. A quartermaster makes $50—a month.

AGREEMENT REACHED

The strike lasted three days, and as The Dispatcher went to press a victory was announced. The men won their first and only serious demand—to go home and leave the miserable ship behind.

With ILWU and NMMU and attorney Lloyd McMurray negotiating for them, the Pakistani crew will be flown home with full pay. The company agreed to sign guarantees that there will be no reprisals again them, and no blacklists when they reach home. The ship's captain agreed to make a proper entry into the mariners book saying their conduct was "very good." (They have continuous discharge books saying their conduct was "very good." They have continuous discharge books, something that was eliminated as onerous by American union seamen decades ago.)

In chronological order here is what happened:

They walked off the ship late in the morning, August 3, set up a somewhat less-than-organized picket line—but that was enough for ILWU longshoremen and clerks of Locals 10 and 34.

The docks recognized the picket line. National Maritime Union representatives, led by port agent Dave Smith, were called and tried to represent the crewmen, most of them from Karachi, Pakistan.

To dramatize their needs and demands, the Pakistani carried samples of what goes by the name of food—large putrescent sardines that couldn't even be used for bait, spoiled vegetables. They said in the valley the rice and flour was wormy. The unfit food (see picture below)

Continued on Back Page

ILWU Warns Isle Unions Of New Anti-Labor Drive

By Wilson Smith

HONOLULU — The ILWU here warned all trade unionists that a new anti-labor drive is under way—under the leadership of former ILWU longshoremen, clerks and stevedores. The run devices used by Murphy.

"Needless to say I am impressed over two decades by militant unionism, could go down the drain if some new and most modern types of equipment.

Mayor Urged

Mayor John F. Shelley said:

"Needless to say I am impressed by the proposal...particularly with the situation on the Pacific Coast where the older longshoremen are being phased out of the picture by age and retirement and younger, unskilled, untrained men are coming in to be continually confronted not only by new and most modern types of equipment."

Continued on Page 3
And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

SF Mayor Urges Congressman Secure US Funds for Dock Skills Training

Continued from Page 1—

"It is thought by all the industry, ship operators, stevedoring companies and longshoremen that some training program would be of inestimable value in developing a new source of supply for this industry."

The first meeting that started the ball rolling was attended July 22 by Robert Rohatch, Local 10 president; Ken Austin, secretary of the local; promotion committee; Ralph Holtgrave, PMA Northern California manager, and J. J. O'Shea, PMA official.

That meeting presented the mayor with four major reasons for establishing and speeding up a skills training program:

1. Key longshoremen are needed to meet the changes to modern methods and new innovations in stevedoring industry.
2. High initial purchase, maintenance and replacement costs of expensive mechanized machinery and equipment used in stevedoring operations.
3. Widespread damage caused by machinery and equipment.
4. High mortality and injury percentage.

WIDE RANGE USE

The statement of purpose, signed by Rohatch and Austin also emphasized that skill-training facilities in a program administered jointly by PMA and ILWU, would be used to train ILWU longshoremen in all Pacific Coast ports and in Alaska and Hawaii.

Called to the mayor's attention was the Local 10 resolution passed last April calling for such a joint program to “meet all needs for competent skilled operators for all modernized and mechanized equipment now used and which may be used in stevedore and terminal operations in a modernized sea-transportation and maritime industry...”

The mayor, a one-time labor official, US Congressman, and merchant seaman, pointed up his interest in this program, “because San Francisco is a major seaport and this is an industry that we all want to encourage and keep alive here.”

In his letter to Congressmen Maillard and Burton, Shelley said, “Some of the newer American vessels have completely revolutionized their cargo handling equipment, hatch covering and storage facilities. This is now being reflected in some of the new and later-built foreign vessels. The committee which spoke to me related some series of incidents in which they stated as new ships come in they find themselves up against completely new problems, and have to spend several hours in finding out how the ship should be handled and manned.”

The longshore skills-training conference in the mayor's office included, left to right, Ralph Holtgrave, PMA, Mayor Shelley, Ken Austin and Robert Rohatch, both Local 10, and J. J. O'Shea, PMA.

First Woman Truck Driver

Jeanette Tachibana, ILWU Local 142, is the first woman truck driver in the pineapple industry. At Calpak's plantation on Molokai, she refused to take a back seat when the company hired a seasonal driver not covered by the agreement. Jeanette passed her test with flying colors—and here she is, on the job, marking up another historic first for the union, and for the "weaker sex."

8000 Attend Vancouver, BC ILWU Picnic

VANCOUVER, B.C. — More than 8000 longshoremen, their families and guests gathered with sunny skies at Stanley Park's Second Beach on July 22 for the annual ILWU picnic.

Already established as the biggest annual picnic in this area, some newspapers referred to it this year as “Canada's biggest picnic.”

Invited guests included 100 baseball “Little Leaguers,” striking gym superb men, and ILWU members from across the border.

WORK STOPS

All work on the Vancouver waterfront was shut down; the annual picnic is a stop-work day provided for as such in the ILWU contract.

Refreshments, provided free by the union, included 25,000 hot dogs, 25,000 soft drinks, 100 gallons of coffee, 3½ tons of ice cream and 5000 plates of potato chips.

A variety program of entertainment that had something for everyone included leading stage artists, races for all ages, tug-o'-war and a log rolling contest.

"The picnic was very successful," said an elated Howie Smith, chairman of the picnic committee. "Our thanks to committee members and all those who worked so well to make it a success."

Homage to Freedom's Man

SAN FRANCISCO — This age's greatest champion of First Amendment freedom — the late Professor Alexander Meiklejohn, who died last December at the age of 92 — was honored in a recent issue of Rights, publication of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee.

The pamphlet called "Homage to Alexander Meiklejohn, Champion of the First Amendment," was distributed last week to all ILWU locals, after the last International Executive Board voted to purchase copies of the pamphlet for distribution.

In a covering letter to locals, ILWU secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt noted that Meiklejohn was one of the world's outstanding educators, dean of Brown University, president of Amherst College, founder of the Experimental College at Wisconsin and later the School of Social Studies in San Francisco.

"But he's best known for his writings in support of the First Amendment to the US Constitution," Goldblatt wrote. "He wrote, not as a lawyer, but as a philosopher. He believed that the right to freedom of speech was protected by the First Amendment, and that protection extended to all forms of expression... Right up to the end he was thinking and fighting for a more sensible and sensitive world."

In the Officers' Report to the ILWU 16th Biennial Convention, Vancouver, B.C., April 5-9, 1965, the section devoted to civil liberties paid the following tribute to Alexander Meiklejohn:

"We cannot close this section of the report without a word to express our arrears in the passing of a great champion of civil liberties, Professor Alexander Meiklejohn, a pioneer in education and the greatest exponent of the right of free expression America has ever known. He died in Berkeley, California, December 16, 1964, at the age of 92. Only five days before his death, Dr. Meiklejohn characterized the subpoenas served on Dagmar Wilson, Donna Allen and Russ Nixon as "an outrageous violation of the Constitution against which every loyal American can vigorously protest."

Meiklejohn was one of the primary signers of a recent petition sent to Congress by 100 Constitutional law authorities asking for abolition of HUAC.

"He was a champion of the ILWU and of free and democratic trade unions in a free society. We remember him as a man who was ageless, a true educator who loved to teach the young to reverse freedom, a man who was always so vigorous and so filled with the joy of life that he did not know the meaning of the word fear. He was the kind of man we recall with deep respect, but with love."

Local 8 Dispatchers Named

PORTLAND — Paul Chimenti was named Local 8 mid term dispatcher in the June election. The other mid term dispatcher, previously announced, is Charles Moffit.
Aerial view of the refinery and processing plants of US Borax at Boron, California. Built in 1957, the facility is one of the most modern of its kind in the world.

FIVE HUNDRED AND sixty-seven ILWU members mine and refine borax at Boron, California, for US Borax and Chemical Corporation.

Boron is in the middle of the Mojave Desert with summer heat and winter cold. It is also the recipient of sonic booms from Edwards Air Force Base, where rocket engines and supersonic airplanes are tested.

The workers are members of the Mine, Mineral & Processing Workers' Union, Local 30 of the ILWU. It is the most recent affiliate of the union.

Organization dates back to 1934 when the Borax Workers Union was formed as a federal local of the American Federation of Labor. In 1944 the body became Local 85 of the International Chemical Workers Union, AFL.

Last year, dissatisfied with their international union, the workers sought new affiliation. In an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board in April, 1964, ILWU was chosen by a vote of 336 to 175.

Chartered in May, the local signed a contract with US Borax on July 7. It was the best contract they ever had and they intend to improve it when it comes up for renegotiation in 1966. The present contract increased wages by 21½ cents an hour across the board in 2 steps. They won significant improvements in vacations, this year bringing three weeks after seven years and ranging up to five weeks after 20 years.

The day after Thanksgiving was made a ninth paid holiday, shift differentials were increased from 8 and 16 cents to 10 and 20 cents and jury duty can be served up to 30 days without loss of pay.

Sick leave was improved to accumulate at the rate of three weeks a year for the first three years and one week per year afterwards. The contract provides for a safety program and the company now pays for all safety equipment. The company also agreed to meet any increases in the cost of health insurance.

The company also agreed to pay the six men who negotiated the agreement for their time, and it pays the wages of a 3-man grievance committee for all necessary meetings.

The contract has the union shop and checkoff.

Robert V. Tucker is Local 30’s president and business agent.

In the heart of California’s Mojave Desert, 120 miles east of Los Angeles, is the world’s principal source of borax. US Borax is the world’s largest producer of borax and borates, and its plant is one of the most modern in the world. The company’s refinery and processing plants are shown in the top photograph. The great open pit mine from which the ore is taken, is shown in the lower left photograph. The ore is transported to the processing plants by a 1,300-foot long conveyor belt. The conveyor belt is shown in the lower right photograph.
Kernite, a rich sodium borate mineral, was discovered in 1925. First called rasorife by US Borax, the mineral was later called kernite, after Kern County.

The original 20-mule team wagons which were operated out of Death Valley stands at the edge of the open pit. It is famed as the Borax symbol.

Kernite, a rich sodium borate mineral, was discovered in 1925. First called rasorife by US Borax, the mineral was later called kernite, after Kern County.

100-ton trucks operate between the mine and the refinery stockpile. For comparative size see the ordinary sedan parked beside it. Smith Fairchild is in the truck cab.

Fusing plant. In the fusing operation, anhydrous products used in the manufacture of such things as glass, fiber glass and porcelain enamel, are produced.

Ralph Abel is chief steward for the plants. Chief steward in the pit is Boyce Couch, who is not pictured.

Tom McCaffrey is local's financial secretary.

100 miles northeast of Los Angeles, is the large open pit of borates. Ore is carried out of the pit to the conveyor belt (center).
San Diego Local, Port Is Thad Black's 'Monument'

SAN DIEGO—Thad Black, 57, for 18 years secretary-treasurer of ILWU Local 29, and the man credited with San Diego's waterfront and one of the best in the country, died Sunday, July 25 after a long bout with leukemia.

San Diego's waterfront and one of the best in the country—both are a monument to a Texan who went back to his roots for the ILWU. This was back in the thirties, Treasurer Louis Goldblatt said Black was instrumental in creating the modern 10th Avenue terminal and was praised for his unending efforts that saw the port jump from a two-ship-a-month operation to one that handles over 600 vessels a year.

Last January, at a testimonial dinner, port director Bate termed Black a "tower of strength on San Diego's waterfront, and one of the most outstanding labor men he has ever known."

GOLDBLATT EULOGY

In his eulogy, ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Louis Goldblatt said Black "built the San Diego local and the port—both are a monument to a great man."

Goldblatt retold the story of Black's organizing work in the early days.

"He was one of the real pioneers of this union . . . a Texan who went back to his roots for the ILWU. This was back in the thirties, and he organized workers on an integrated basis. He was fighting the segregationists, and complete coverage by the union demand for the warehouse area settlement, during an air raid on a ship he was on the union demand for the warehouse area settlement, during an air raid on a ship he was on a vendetta to "get" him, and the Alameda County Central Labor Council. The State Federation had held an eight-year prison sentence for alleged jury tampering, out and out anti-labor bill to pass the US Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati which upheld a five-year prison sentence, and Black on Teamster president James Hoffa to address its national convention, opening in Los Angeles Aug. 23.

POWERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the city of San Diego, for instance, the word here before this happened was that the DI bill was being held as hostage. That's the way it was handled in Chile that political leaders and labor leaders are working to help workers. It was also handled in Chile that political leaders are working to help workers.

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Oldtimers Donate New Lease on Life

PORTLAND—A well known waterfront veteran, Art Swanson, one-time business agent of Local 8 and a former worker for the Portland Stevedoring Company—who only a few weeks ago was doomed to death because of a heart condition—today has a new lease on life, all because of the fast thinking and generous help of the Columbia River Pensioners' Memorial Association.

Swanson, who started shoveling ballast for windjammers in Portland harbor in 1918 was diagnosed as having Kaiser Hospital when his wife was in- formation was given to the Swift letter in his chest wall of a battery-operated mechanical pace-maker.

The double digit time (to regulate the heart beat) are very expensive and retirement had drained the Swanson's savings. Then the hospital social worker telephoned Mike Stickleger, president of the CRPMA. Stickleger convened an emergency board meeting of the oldtimers' group, with the result that $600 was contributed toward the purchase of the pace-maker, with Captain Bishop of the Portland Stevedoring Company adding $80 to the amount.

Tulac Peninsula Pensioners

Editor: At the regular meeting of the Pensioners Club Local 23, on July 20, the following motion was taken and carried: "That the pension vote was taken thanking the de- gates and officers for their support to the old timers, Local 23, Tulac, Wash.

Arouse Hate Within Me

Editor: This Mississippi "hospital- tility" has aroused hate within me that I didn’t know existed. Hate of the white man's in- justices has to burn deep within us before we can begin to communicate with the Negro in the South.

In our eagerness to lead the way out of this swamp of race prejudices, there is always the danger that we may cause the Negro from his Fre- dom struggle which is now going into high gear. How can a man with a vote in the white man's favor be black cotton chopper who had his insurance can- celed after a mysterious fire burned down his shack and all his meager belongings while the white fire department "stood by" with hands in pockets? If you're wise, you'll say nothing but just cau- tiously see his side these like and reach for his hand.

I don't want communication, brother! It's got to burn deep or else there's no communication.

The smoke that on Andrew’s plantation is still solid. The wires and children are housed in a Negro college build- ing while the men live in a large Negro college build- ing which is now going deep struggle which is now going out of this swamp of race prejudice, with the Negro in the South.

The Solidarity of the Strikers Who are housed in a Negro college build- ing which is now going out of this swamp of race prejudice, with the Negro in the South.

Half Century Retired Local 24 long- shoreman Roscoe M. Mackey and his wife as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Aberdeen, Washington. They were married June 10, 1915. Mackey became a longshoreman in 1922, retired on pension in 1957.

Some Time ago we received a let- ter from Harvey Jones, Long Beach, complaining about the wraps of his fishing rod being frayed and the cement beneath the ferrules be- ing dried out, the ferrules therefore becoming loose and separated from the rod.

I wrote Harvey a letter and found that he keeps his rod in an aluminum rod case, the rod itself enclosed in a cloth wrapper. Harvey's com- plaint is a common one, one that I've heard many times when I was pounding the floor of a tackle shop. The whole problem can be avoided if both the rod and the cloth case are thoroughly dry before receiving the rod for storage. One sure-fire remedy: Bore a quarter-inch hole in the case—below the cap.

Situation: You're out on the river without a ruler and you want to measure your rod tip while it's laying down like a diving jet and you fig- uered he was against the lunker sur- face with cupped and determined brakes, crashing into the water — when she was a fledgling -- apparently the eagle overrated its dexterity and didn't bring its arms wide enough to keep the rod from the water. The bill measures six inches.

SOMETHING INTERESTING tale from Ju- nita Carlsen, wife of J. D. Car- lson, Local 12, Coos Bay, Oregon:

Randy Quillan, 11 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Quillan, was fish- ing near the mouth of the Coos River—not too far from their home. He got a small trout; specifically, cutthroat. He was rigged light and easy with eight ounces of lead and using a light- weight spin rig.

Suddenly his rod tip went zoom- ing down like a diving jet and he fig- uered he was onto another species of fish. He was, but it was not the way he wanted it. He hooked a squid.

The fish and shrimp processing plant, which employs about 150 peo- ple at peak capacity, was fortunately not, in operation when the fire started sometime Sunday evening. Ted Mikowski, president of the local, discovered the fire at 7:30 a.m. as he was making a routine check that all was well. He called the fire depart- ment, then entered the plant to find the exact location of the fire. He tried to find a fire hose, but the smoke almost asphyxiated him. Fire- men brought the blaze under con- trol.

Some of the shrimp pickers are expected to return to work in the new other location, but most are with- out jobs, and there are hardship cases. The local has requested the ILWU International Executive Board to exoneration them from their capi- tax and to suspend payment of dues. This has been done.

According to Eugene Bailey, Local 12 longshoreman, and many union officers, many of the fish workers have had an extremely rough time, for many of their vaca- tions were up on smoke, and may not be paid for some time.

ILWU members—in good standing —and the members of their families can order a cloth wrapper. Harvey's com- plaint is a common one, one that I've heard many times when I was pounding the floor of a tackle shop. The whole problem can be avoided if both the rod and the cloth case are thoroughly dry before receiving the rod for storage. One sure-fire remedy: Bore a quarter-inch hole in the case—below the cap.

Situation: You're out on the river without a ruler and you want to make sure your finister is large enough to keep. Well, you can solve the problem if you have a dollar bill in your pocket. Just lay it 'longside the fish. The fish measures six inches.

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Pakistani Crew Victory

Continued from Page 1—

The total amount to feed 15 men three meals a day.

One longshoreman, asked what he thought of the strike, said: "I wish I was down at the nutrid pile, and in front of the TV camera said:

"This is what I think." And he spit.

After the longshoremen and clerks refused to return to the job, coast arbitrator Sam Kegal was called down and ruled that this was a proper labor picket line property observed.

PRINCIPLE OF DECENCY

ILWU Local 10 president Robert Rohatch came down and announced to the longshore gangs gathered around:

"You fellows have won a principle by acting as we acted in this ship. This is what we fought for in 1934. The principle that we are entitled to decent conditions. Any time that any working men or women are being kicked around they deserve a support."

When the dockers found the Pakistani crew was hungry they immediately set up a "tarpaulin muster" and collected enough to send them to drive them to the Y. They were assisted by NMU patrolman George Humphries.

That morning the crew was back on the picket line, and again the ship was not worked.

On the third morning three officials of Teamster's Local 85 came to the dock, after hearing their story, they decided not to respect the picket line, but to go for a night's lodging.

Conditions on this Dutch ship, which belongs to the Nedlloyd and whose Pacific line.

Hoegh Lines and whose Pacific line.

And when they get back to Karachi they'll have a story to tell—about the meaning of militant action, about some of the American trade unionists and about a kind of unionism that I think is too strong these days. And about international solidarity.

Now they're going home. They were scheduled to go to the airport on a bus furnished by the Teamsters.

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ILWU Supports Canada
Postal Workers' Strike

VANCOUVER, B.C. — A sporadic wage strike, the first in nearly half a century, crippled Canada's postal services earlier this month.

Major cities involved in the rank-and-file revolt included Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

The federal government immediately appointed a one-man commission to look into wages. It will give its recommendations immediately.

The commissioner, Judge J. C. Anderson, has indicated that he favors a "further substantial" increase and that his interim report will be ready in two weeks. It is reported that he favors an increase of $50 a year.

The strike was called off in most centers, with the exception of Montreal, on the urging of national leaders of the postal workers in a government promise that no disciplinary action or wage deductions would be implemented as a result of the strike.

In Montreal, William Houle, president of the Montreal section of the Canadian Postal Employees' Association, changed his position on strikebreaking.

"We had a government in our hands," he said, "but the leaders chose to be strikebreakers." They "played ball with the services of the employers and it's shameful to us."

Postal workers have indicated that if substantial increases are not granted, they will refuse to work under the ILWU Judge Anderson commission, they will strike again.

ILWU can help any group to help unionize. And keep in mind the principles makes us "red"—then let the opposition take their best shots.

RED-BAITING MUST BE TACKLED HEAD-ON AND HARD BY ORGANIZERS

Continuing our discussion on organizing prospects, tactics and strategy, it must be pointed out that one of the key organizational problems is the age-old tactic of em-belm, scare words, and emotion-trig-gering names—to throw up a smoke screen around the honest issues, around the only basic concepts of the union, lays out the presentation of 250 workers July 23 at the Mutual Plastic Mold Corporation located at La Mirada, Calif. The plant manufactures plastic containers, and is in the jurisdiction of ILWU Local 26, International Representative Don Wright conducted the successful campaign for ILWU.

Local 26 Represents Plastic Workers

LOS ANGELES — ILWU won representation of 350 workers July 23 at the Mutual Plastic Mold Corporation located at La Mirada, Calif. The election was conducted by the NLKB.

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WHEN ISSUES are honestly explored, the red labels can be thrown on the garbage heap where they belong. And that is not something the organizer can really believe in these ILWU principles. And he should not be bashful about applying to international affairs, is being used as a smokescreen to con-vince the workers that their basic rights are protected in the International Constitution.

After an organizer explains the basic concepts of the union, lays out the record, there's no reason why he can't put the "red" issue on the line. For example, he can say bluntly that if it is a program that means much to the membership is going to be supported with some bloody "red" label—then so be it. What counts is what can really be gained by un-bowing to this is not what counts, that can wait for some future time.

And you can even go so far as to say that if they aren't willing to thing that rank-and-file human be-ings all over the world want to be social, economic and political changes in their lives—for the bet-ter they hope. They want to deter-mine their own futures. They want to be free to organize, to strike, to make their own decisions. And that's what the union is all about. That's what the ILWU is all about. That's what the red label is all about.

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One other point comes to mind.

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