SHOWDOWN IN SUGAR

See Editorial, Page 2

The Dispatcher
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9,000 Out In Hawaii Strike

HONOLULU — The cane sugar industry, original foundation of wealth in Hawaii, is shut down tight for the try, original foundation of wealth in its workers at the end of World War II.

The big sugar shutdown (see editorial on page 2) began on March 9 after Hawaii's 16 sugar companies left the union no alternative.

ILWU Regional Director Robert Eclbrath put it succinctly, "It was either strike or surrender, on the employers' terms."

Nine thousand men and women are on strike. They’re the ones who grow the sugar on the plantations, harvest it, mill it and refine it—except for that sugar is refined statewide.

WIDE SIGNIFICANCE

There is a distinct possibility the completion pineapple industry might also be shut down before long, thus involving 6,000 more workers or a total of 15,000.

The ILWU, as it has been saying for months, thus is involved in an up-against-the-wall struggle with a group of very powerful multi-national corporations.

Hawaii may seem like a highly unlikely place from which to launch a US labor movement.

The strike here happens to be a tangible example of such a struggle.

The Big Five companies in Hawaii, who acquired their wealth and power by being factors (agents) for the original missionaries, have now become multi-national financial powers, and all at once this island outpost state is the place where the battle is being formed.

Hawaii has been called "a sugar-coated fortress," and that's what it seems like today.

The sugar strike comes at a time when the industry is enjoying great profits.

SAN FRANCISCO — Warehouse Local 6 of the ILWU is going to see if something can be done "to regain wages lost due to inflation and to protect the membership against further price increases."

A total of 356 delegates attending the big Bay Area local's 29th annual Constitutional and Contract Convention referred to the union's officers a resolution declaring, "The combination of runaway inflation and wage controls has resulted in a real wage cut of at least 15 cents per hour for our membership in the last year."

The delegates, meeting Saturday, March 16, at the Del Webb Towne House here, asked their leaders to consider that "continued inflation in the next two years will more than wipe out wage increases negotiated under threat of government intervention, causing further cuts in our real wages and living standards."

COMMITTEE MAY CONVENE

The Local 6 members, who only last June were approving and rejoicing over a three year contract, found themselves concerned with the problem of catching up with inflation.

Curtis McClain, president of Local 6, who presented the officers' report to the convention, recommended the local's negotiating committee be reconvened to consider the problem, and the delegates agreed.

ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Louis Goldblatt told the delegates "something will have to be done" and declared, "The day has gone now when a union can simply run the negotiation treadmill to fight inflation."

He recommended a "combination of economic and political action."

The delegates "from here on in to fight inflation."

Local 6 convention—lots of debate, long lines of speakers at the microphones during the convention in the Del Webb Towne House, San Francisco, Saturday, March 16, while President Curtis McClain (right) checks out the cameraman. Center, looking at Bridges, is Secretary-Treasurer Keith Eickman of Local 6.

CONVENTION SCENE — ILWU President Harry Bridges addresses Local 6 convention in the Del Webb Towne House, San Francisco, Saturday, March 16, while President Curtis McClain (right) checks out the cameraman. Center, looking at Bridges, is Secretary-Treasurer Keith Eickman of Local 6.

Re'erenting to last summer's negotiations, McClain said, "It was a good contract, but recall it was negotiated in June of 1973."

ILWU President Harry Bridges urged the delegates "from here on in to fight for short term contracts," although he emphasized he was not being critical of the present contract. "We must," he said, "have a policy of short term contracts." Otherwise, he said, "we're not even holding our own."

In many respects it was a typical Local 6 convention—lots of debate, long lines of speakers at the microphone and not enough time to finish all the business on the agenda.

Since the master warehouse contract for Northern California was negotiated jointly with International Brotherhood of Teamsters, one possibility is the reconvening of the Joint Warehouse Council. Goldblatt and McClain promised efforts would be made in this direction.

 initializer
Showdown In Sugar

The ILWU has joined battle in Hawaii with the Big Five. The arena is composed of the sugar cane fields and mills that are the foundation of the wealth of these corporations. The members of the ILWU in Hawaii who grow, harvest and refine sugar are on strike. This probably will be a long battle. It could cost these powerful employers an entire sugar crop. The decision is up to them.

Seldom has a group of employers thrown down such an insolent challenge as have these corporations that have built their sugar wealth into such diversified power they now operate in many enterprises on several continents. Companies that imported workers to Hawaii under what were once feudal conditions have reduced the needed work force. Automation, those wages cut into the profit margin despite long pineapple will be down, too. The Big Five—Castle & Cooke, Alexander & Baldwin, Theo. H. Davies, C. Brewer and Alexander & Baldwin—have a chip on their shoulder and they are riding the crest of a wave of vast financial power. The price of sugar is double under what were once feudal conditions have reduced the needed work force. Automation, the need for cheap, unorganized labor, has lowered the cost of production and made sugar rich still have an ace in the hole—their labor.

The union has chosen to make its first fight on the sugar line. However, the battle lines in pineapple are just as clear. That situation will be reviewed by the negotiating committee and the local, and it is very possible that before long pineapple will be down, too. The ILWU has faced many crises in its history. The members in Hawaii have backed up their demands with a better than 90 percent strike vote. The members have seen every union proposal rebuffed—including the concept of no lay-offs for the duration of the contract. All the union has received is a cold shoulder.

Some of the things that have happened to this union over the years seem now to be happening to the nation. We have had our phones tapped. Every force available to employers and their agents in government has been employed against us. But we survive because our constitutional base is sound. So will the nation survive.

The ILWU helped transform Hawaii into a better place in which to live, but that sugar crop will not harvest itself. It will not reﬁne itself. It will not even grow without labor.

The arrogance of the employers is intensified by what has happened on the plantations and in the sugar mills. Union wages have made Hawaii a better place in which to live, but those gains are threatened by automation and consolidation. Seldom has a group of employers thrown down such an insolent challenge as have these corporations. The employers are saying, "Let's see if you've still got it." They even refused a day-to-day extension, prior to this one—a two-and-a-half month strike in 1968, a more than four-month stint on the picket line in 1968 and a five-week strike in 1969. This could turn out to be the most critical of all.

The ILWU helped transform Hawaii into a progressive, if not the most progressive, state in the union. The ILWU has joined battle in Hawaii with the Big Five. The arena is composed of the sugar cane fields and mills that are the foundation of the wealth of these corporations. The members of the ILWU in Hawaii who grow, harvest and refine sugar are on strike. This probably will be a long battle. It could cost these powerful employers an entire sugar crop. The decision is up to them.

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Continued from Page 1—

Effective Jan. 1, 1975, and to substitute
for other duties when the halls were
not busy.

● Voted down by a decisive margin a
proposal to establish "an official
anti-blacklist committee," preferring to
leave the business of fighting blacklists
to the established machinery of the
union.

● Agreed to establish occupational
safety and health committees in each
division to "assist the various houses
improve their on-the-job safety and re-
lated health conditions."

● Reaffirmed the union's "long
standing policy of giving full support to
the struggle of farm workers to organ-
ize their union," the United Farm Work-
ers, AFL-CIO, but refrained from en-
dorsing specific boycotts such as that
of Gallo wine. (Local 6 members man
a Gallo warehouse in South San Fran-
cisco, but also handle other brands of
wine.)

● Agreed to seek common expiration
dates for warehouse contracts and con-
tracts covering warehouse office work-
ers in order to enhance the bargaining
position of office workers.

TIME FACTOR
Cauted in a time bind, the delegates
referred all unfinished business to the
union's general executive board—with
the understanding that delegates could
attend with voice and vote on conven-
tion items. (The meeting was to be held
Wednesday, March 20, too late for this
edition of The Dispatcher.)

The convention was greeted by po-
titical figures who agreed with the
deleagtes on the fact working people
are, as Oakland City Councilman John
Sutter put it, "being short changed.
Sutter said, "The standard of liv-
ing in this country is going down. For too long
we've allowed a few people to run this coun-
try."

San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto,
still disappointed from the marathon
negotiations to end the nine-day strike of
city workers (see page four), carri-
gaged Governor Ronald Reagan and Re-
pubican gubernatorial hopeful Hou-
ston Flournoy for suggesting that strik-
ing city workers be fired.

"This," said Alioto, is where you
came in in 1984!" He scoffed at the very
concept of bringing "16,000 scabs and
strikebreakers into San Francisco." He
said that his efforts to settle the strike
had been governed by "a rule of rea-
son, not a rule of reason." The mayor re-
ceived a standing ovation.

The convention was attended by, in
addition to Bridges and Goldblatt,
ILWU Vice President William Chester.
Vice President Terry Matthews was in
Hawaii in connection with the sugar
strike but sent a message of greeting.

The delegates adopted the officers' re-
port pledging full support to the Ha-
waii strikers and also reaffirmed sup-
port of Aubrey Grossman, the local's
attorney, who is facing disbarment for
his involvement in defending US Indians
in court.

Alaska Lumber Shipments
Show Sharp Increase
SEATTLE—The big news on the ex-
port front, as reflected in Pacific Lumber
Bureau statistics, is the way lumber
shipments from Alaska have in-
creased in the past decade and a half.
In 1973, according to PLB's annual
report, the 40th state sent 303,310,626
board feet into export channels, every
stick of it to Japan. In 1964, Alaska ex-
ported 139,701,316 board feet, and in 1957
only 4,435,502 feet.

Resident Agent
PASCO, Wash. — The Port of Port-
land is establishing a resident agent's
office here in mid-April. It will be
headed by Fritz Timmen, the Port of
Portland's long time public relations
manager.

DELEGATES DEBATE—Alpha Baker heads a line-up of speakers on a con-
troversial resolution at ILWU Local 6 Convention, held March 16 at Del Webb
Towne House in San Francisco.

Sugar Strikers
Win Support in
Southern Cal
WILMINGTON—Full support for Lo-
cal 142 sugar strikers was voted earlier
this month by members of the ILWU
Southern California District Council.
The delegates also passed a recom-
menation that ILWU members assess Themselves on a monthly basis to aid
the strike.

The delegates also called for a Fed-
eral investigation of the manipulation
of gasoline supplies, as well as price
racing by the major oil companies.
They also demanded a roll-back of gas-
oile and fuel oil supplied to 1969 levels.

Parliamentary Point—ILWU Local 6 President Curtis McClain (left)
and Secretary-Treasurer Keith Eickman meet a parliamentary point during
debate in Local 6 convention March 16.

Sugar strikers are shown marching in San Francisco's St. Patrick's Day parade. ILWU was awarded a prize in San Francisco's St. Patrick's Day parade, ILWU was awarded two major prizes—the best Sr. Men's Drill Team and in the women's division, Gambi Kinton was adjudged the best Jr. Solo Majorette (1st award). Women's uniforms are light blue. They carry cargo hooks just as the men do, Josh Williams directs.

Washington Office Moves
New address for the ILWU Wash-
ington office is:
123 “C” Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Tel: (202) 544-8002

LISTENER — ILWU Secretary-Treas-
urer Louis Goldblatt listens attentive-
ly to one of the many debates that
enlivened Local 6 Convention in San
Francisco March 16.

SUGAR STRIKERS WIN SUPPORT IN
SOUTHERN CAL

TERRY MATTHEWS (center) of the ILWU talks with the media following the Local 6 Convention. The delegates voted full support for the sugar strikers and also reaffirmed support of Aubrey Grossman, the local's attorney.

WASHINGTON OFFICE MOVES — New address for the ILWU Washington office is:
123 "C" Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Tel: (202) 544-8002

Parliamentary Point — ILWU Local 6 President Curtis McClain (left) and Secretary-Treasurer Keith Eickman meet in Local 6 convention March 16.

Sugar Strikers Win Support in Southern Cal
WILMINGTON—Full support for Local 142 sugar strikers was voted earlier this month by members of the ILWU Southern California District Council. The delegates also passed a recommendation that ILWU members assess themselves on a monthly basis to aid the strike.

The delegates also called for a Federal investigation of the manipulation of gasoline supplies, as well as price gouging by the major oil companies.

They also demanded a roll-back of gasoline and fuel oil supplied to 1969 levels. Featured speaker was Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor Commissioner Terry Matthews who thanked the ILWU for its support and assistance. Matthews received special praise for his work on behalf of the United Farm Workers.

March 30 was set as the date for the first of two meetings to interview and endorse candidates for public office. The District Council meeting will be held at the International Hotel in Inglewood beginning at 9 a.m. A second can-
didate meeting will be held Saturday, April 6.

NEW FEATURE — The ILWU's Local 10 drill team now has a new feature, a women's contingent. They are shown above performing at a recent meeting of the local where new officers were installed. Both men's and women's contin-
gents marched in San Francisco's St. Patrick's Day parade, ILWU was awarded two major prizes—the best Sr. Men's Drill Team and in the women's division, Gambi Kinton was adjudged the best Jr. Solo Majorette (1st award). Women's uniforms are light blue. They carry cargo hooks just as the men do, Josh Williams directs.
San Francisco — It was probably San Francisco's dirtiest day in 1974. The nine-day strike ended — the strikers had won. It was a victory for the ILWU, but it was a victory because it was a victory, not because it was the strike they wanted, but because they got it. The day after they won, they voted to approve a settlement. Mayor Joseph Alioto participated in all-night talks.

The settlement, in which Mayor Joseph Alioto played a major role, provides pay raise of $600 a year for each of the 15,509 miscellaneous city workers involved. An estimated 1,500 hospital workers will have the option of transferring to crafts pay" by April 1, if such pay (based on private industry contracts) will give them higher wages.

The city will pay up to $500,000 for a dental plan. Sheriff's deputies will get an additional 2.5 percent, $312 for the year, to bring them in line with deputies in other counties.

Although the Chamber of Commerce was frustrated in court and demanding that the mayor and the chief of police be put in the Smithsoni (Institution) with the other foci.

Why Sugar Prices Are High—Everywhere

A junior clerk who now gets $134 a week will get $144 on July 1 and $147 on Jan. 1. A clerk-trimmer who now gets $117 will get $118 July 1 and $184 Jan. 1. A bookkeeper who now gets $163 will get $172 July 1 and $176 Jan. 1.

The settlement, voted most begrudgingly by the Board of Supervisors, gave the workers an $11 million package as compared to a $12 million deal that had been the supervisors' last best offer, which triggered the strike.

Alito, commenting on a Chamber of Commerce injunction, issued by Judge Clayton Horn, has said that the settlement was a "an abridgment" deal that the "ought to be put in the Smithsonian (Institution) with the other atolls."

To San Francisco's historic waterfront, scene of many a labor struggle, came on March 14 a new generation of union members. These were striking city workers — city clerks, janitors, cafeteria, sanitation and hospital employees. On the eighth day of their strike they shut the city down because it is a city of low paid workers — mostly low paid.

The city workers have been in close touch with the strike leaders, and — just before the Transport Workers Union, respect-fully and the public complained as of emergency, this was a strike by low paid workers, cafeteria workers, hospital workers, long victimized by percentage discounts on our backs."

The city's so-called miscellaneous workers, long victimized by percentage discounts on the street and when people streamed off the trains at the end of the block and the standing room in there is only a teat on a slab of bacon.

"Sucre!" You could hear the hiss of the place was packed tightly with people, and the standing room in there is only a teat on a slab of bacon.

I duck out for a jug of Zibib and pour...Yolanda is the wife and mother in the family with whom Tyler was staying at the time this was written.

It is 10:30. I've got a batch of mail ready to go. The Post Office is open as usual.

YOLANDA

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CLOSE TO VICTORY — San Francisco city strikers were close to victory five years ago when they went out on the waterfront on the evening of March 14 to check for picketing, for the port because it is city owned, an all-night negotiating session that evening resulted in victory for the strikers.

TACOMA TRAIN CREW MEMBERS NOW ILWU

TACOMA — International Representative George Ginnis reports that five train crew members who work for the Port of Tacoma have been taken into a special unit of Longshore Local 23. This special unit was established in 1970 when 70 other port employees, including office personnel, were organized by Regional Director G. Johnny Parks and Ginnis, then business agent of Local 23.

UAW TO REJOIN AFL-CIO?

WASHINGTON, DC—The United Auto Workers' Executive Board has opened the subject of re-affiliation with the AFL-CIO, which it left in 1958 in a dispute over political and social policies.

In a little-publicized meeting last month, the UAW Executive Board resolved to begin discussions on re-affiliation with the Federation within the local union, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The March 22, 1934, edition has a small story headed, "ILA Sa's Cracked." Someone had broken into the Sa at ILA headquarters here. The paper made no big thing of it, awarding it a small item on page 3.

The story simply attributed the act to the shop pigeons of ILA and suggested sarcastically that the thieves were looking for "secret orders" kept from Moscow.

While the women's liberation movement was in the sense it is known today, there was no big thing in the March 22, 1934, edition of the Workers' Union. There was a front page cartoon showing a giant figure labeled "ILA" rolling its sleeves. The International Longshoremen's Association was the president of the ILWU.

THE DEMANDS

The Giant is saying, "We demand a closed shop, $1 an hour, $1.50 overtime, no discrimination, and no rats. We are preparing to win."

The form and style of the Waterfront Worker would never win at it. It is a found school of journalism, it has an outspoken rank and file vitality that still sounds exciting over a span of 40 years.

One of the prime characteristics of the newspaper was that about the only names it mentioned in those first years were those of the bad guys. The names are mainly those of bosses or of union officials that the workers didn't want to make themselves sitting ducks. But there was also an ample element of one-and-one-for-all that sought to play down individual achievement.

SAFE-CRACKED

Sometimes the Waterfront Worker seemed to play down what else there would have been big stories, perhaps because they didn't want to scare their own rats.

For example, the March 22, 1934, edition has a small story headed, "ILA Sa's Cracked." Someone had broken into the Sa at ILA headquarters here. The paper made no big thing of it, awarding it a small item on page 3.

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Local 21 Seeks More Gasoline For Dockers

LONGVIEW — ILWU Local 21 has filed a formal complaint and application to Olympia asking for additional gas allotments for its members, President Mel

Vam Bannister says.

At the last stopwork meeting, Ban

nister said, any member who fails to

recommend our members do not patronize

any Safeway stores and that we do not

accepting applications for the limited

amount of gasoline, which is a vital need

for its members who work in the area.

Local 21 also has a formal complaint

filed in Olympia to the Puget Sound

Council of the Labor Council of Washing

ton State for its members to be allo

wed more gasoline.

Local 21 is requesting an increase of

500 gallons of gasoline per week for

its members, who currently receive 250

gallons per week.

The request was made due to the increa

se in gas prices and the need for mem

bers to travel to and from their work

locations.

Local 21 also requested that the gas

supply be increased to meet the needs of

its members, who are essential workers

required to travel to work during the cor

onavirus pandemic.

The local union is seeking to negotiate

a new contract that would include an in

crease in gasoline allotments.

The local union is also calling for a

meeting with company representatives to

discuss the issue further.

The Local 21 President, Mike Vam Ban

nister, said the union is committed to

protecting the rights of its members and

will continue to fight for better condi

tions.

ILWU Local 21 Union Officer

John Arnold

John Arnold is the President of

ILWU Local 21. He has been a

member of the union for over 30

years and has been involved in the

negotiations for several years.

Arnold is also a member of the

Local 21 executive board.

Arnold has been an active union

member and has been involved in the

fighting for better working condi

tions for the union members.

Arnold is a strong advocate for

the rights of the union members and

is committed to fighting for better

conditions for all.

Arnold has been part of several

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Gains Won By Herring Fishermen in BC

VANCOUVER, B.C. — Substantial gains have been won by B.C. herring fishermen after a strike of five weeks that began on Feb. 10, 1974.

The new rates, negotiated jointly by the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union and the Native Brotherhood of B.C. with the Fisheries Association, increase the price of seine caught herring from $72 in last year’s contract to $131.50 while gillnetters will have their rates topped from $180.00 in last year’s contract to $250.00.

The strike had the full backing of the labor movement, including the ILWU. The B.C. Federation of Labor declared “hot” all herring caught by scabs in breach of the “no-union—no-fishing” pact.

The PTA secured an ex parte injunction (an injunction secured on the application of only one of the parties involved) against the Union and Brotherhood for a period of four days, preventing the picketing of certain premises, but when it came before the B.C. Supreme Court and when the PTA sought to have it extended to all operations of the PTA, it was rejected on a technicality.

Lawrence’s Address

I thank you for publishing my article “Pearl Harbor Survivor” in the Feb. 22, 1974, issue of The Dispatcher, page 7.

It was either an oversight or else I failed to list my address, so that other writers and former shipmates could write for the information about reunions. I send my address in case of inquiries. My address is 502 East Second Street, Anamosa, Iowa 52205.

AL LAWRENCE

Local 13, Retired

PEARSE HARBOR VETERAN — Al Lawrence, a retired member of ILWU longshore Local 13, was aboard the USS Oklahoma when it was attacked in Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941. He is shown above at a Dubuque, Iowa, service commemorating Father Al Schmitt, a Navy chaplain, whose heroism aboard the Oklahoma made it possible for at least 12 men to survive, although Schmitt himself was killed. While on board the Oklahoma, Lawrence served Mass for Father Schmitt.
ILWU, ILA Protest Chiseling on Dock Comp Coverage

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Efforts by the US Labor Department to chisel on enforcement of the 1972 amendments to the Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act will be forcefully opposed by a united labor movement, ILWU and ILA representatives warned the department officials recently.

At the initiative of Sen. Harrison Williams (D-NJ), co-sponsor of the landmark Longshoremen’s Compensation bill, Under-Secretary of Labor Richard Schubert met with union officials here March 13 to hear charges that the Act was being systematically taken apart by the Nixon administration.

Representing the ILWU were Coast Committeeman Bill Ward, Washington Representative Pat Tobin, former Local 8 Secretary-Treasurer Everett Ede and former Local 1 Welfare Director Julius Stern. The ILA was represented by attorney Thomas W. Gleason, Jr., and Safety Director Joseph Leonard.

Sen. Williams was joined by labor committee staff members Jerry Fod- der, Donald Ellisberg and Eugenio Mid- diemam.

The BARGAINING ITEM

The union leaders warned that unless the Labor Department drew up regulations mandating strict enforcement of the bill and unless other improvements in delivery of benefits were made, they would be forced to take up the slack through the collective bargaining process.

Among the major problems brought to the Labor Department’s attention were:

• Failure of the Nixon administration to hire sufficient personnel to per- mit rapid and expeditious handling of claims. “In certain areas of the coun- try,” said one union representative, “the delivery system is actually worse than that which existed under the old Longshore and Har- bor Workers’ Act.”

• Deputy Commissioners in numer- ous areas have been permitted great latitude in interpreting regulations, of- ten violating the clear intent of Con- gress.

For example, certain grain elevator workers in Portland, it was charged, have been covered by the new federal bill only when a ship was at the dock, being reduced to lower state levels of coverage when there was no ship.

Also, on the East and Gulf coasts, some cooperators and maintenance work- ers have been denied federal coverage, even though they clearly meet the eligibility requirements spelled out in the Act.

BIG IMPROVEMENTS

The 1972 amendments, co-sponsored by Senators Williams and Jacob Javits (R-NY), featured substantial improve- ments of benefits, streamlining of pro- cedures, and extension of coverage to maritime workers previously only cov- ered by lower state benefits.

But the problem, said Tobin, is that the process of establishing actual reg- ulations for implementation of the bill, insurance carriers and some employ- ers have had the opportunity to take a second shot in substantially weaken- ing benefits.

At the conclusion of the session, Un- der-Secretary Schubert agreed to a sec- ond meeting, to be held in several weeks, in which labor representatives will present their own recommenda- tions on implementation of the Act.

PORTLAND Ranks Tenth

PORTLAND — Portland-Columbia River placed tenth among all US ports in the number of ocean-going ship calls reported for 1972.

Sugar Strikers Dig in for Long Struggle

Continued from Page 1—

The price of sugar is double what it was a year ago, and demand for sugar is on the increase (see story pages 4 and 5). Key in the strike is job secur- ity, followed by wages increases, a cost- of-living allowance and better pensions.

The first strike bulletin issued by Local 107’s Strike Strategy Committee says, “Now sugar prices have gone sky high. When we negotiated our last agreement in 1972 they were $1.18. On March 6, 1974, they were $279. Now is the time to get our wages up where they belong. Now is the time to nail down some guarantees for the future—adequate pensions, bet- ter severance pay, protection on lay off.”

Union members worked without a contract from February 18 through March 8 in an effort to reach a settle- ment, but employers refused any form of extension. Negotiations began De- cember 4, 1973, and there was one ex- tension of the old contract, which ex- pired January 31.

NO PROPOSALS

Union negotiators point out the em- ployers have made no proposals what- soever in the area of job security de- spite widespread apprehension on the part of the workers because of many changes in plantation operations, land sales and other uncertainties.

The employers call union demands “roadblocks” despite indications they may face an actual shortage of work- ers in some sugar categories.

The union is digging in for a long strike—literally to the point of planting strike gardens. (See picture.) The union also has warned the employers that their hard-nosed attitude could cost them a sugar crop. (See editorial, page 3).

Meanwhile, pineapple employers were being equally tough, refusing to extend the contract beyond February 15. Un- ion members have voted to strike, if necessary, but have chosen to pick their own time. Pineapple is different from sugar in one key respect. While sugar is in a boom price situation, pineapple is in the process of being “phased down”—as the companies like to put it—in Ha- waii because it is cheaper to produce canned pineapple in places like the Philippines and Thailand.

Fresh pineapple still is being pushed because of the proximity of Hawaii to the mainland, but canning operations are being moved steadily away. (The March 10 issue of The Nation contains an article entitled “Hawaii Without Pineapple,” by Mary Alice Kellogg, a correspondent for Newsweek, in San Francisco, who went to Hawaii to study the crisis in pineapple.)

Of the nine companies that once grew pineapple in Hawaii only three survive — Castle & Cooke (Dole), Maui Land and Pineapple, and Del Monte.

The companies prefer the Philippines and Thailand, where the going wage can be as low as 10 cents an hour.

Pineapple employs 5,500 year-round and 12,500 seasonal workers.

CONTINUED SUPPORT—ILWU members have continued to provide support to embattled Sears strikers in San Francisco during the Retail Clerks’ long battle against the giant chain. Here a member of Ship Clerks’ Local 54 carries a union banner at a recent demonstration in front of Sears store at Geary and Masonic. ILWU Northern California District Council has contributed $500 to the strike.