

I.L.A. Meeting - March 22 1934.

The meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. Six new members were initiated into ILA local. There were four delegates from the unemployed league, they all made a speech and a Mr. Ryan an ex longshoreman and a Mr. Walker; they stated they had 30,000 men to help the strikers, that they could place five men deep the length of the waterfront and that there would be no scabbing. I didn't get the names of the other two men (too much noise) They also stated that they were all willing to fight for the cause and would fight to the finish. Mr. Walker told the ILA members to hunt their stool pigeons and deal with them severely. There was another man sent as a delegate from some organization, I couldn't hear the name. He stated they had 70,000 men organized and were behind the ILA strikers, and that they were behind Mooney and that just now they were working on a case of a sailor who is being deported back to the old country. He stated that their organization was all over the world. The local members voted unanimously to arbitrate for two weeks and if their demands were not forthcoming by then they would hang the hook. There was a man present from California. He is going to open a school to teach N.I.R.A., he talked quite a bit on section 7A of N.R.A. Too much noise I could not hear much of his speech but he said he was going to teach unionism. Peabody, Secretary of local ILA stated he discovered at the CWA workers employment bureau evidence where they were using Government money to fight the strike with, also where they were hiring CWA workers to scab on longshoremen. They sent a telegram to Mr. Ryan New York, and Wagner at Washington D.C. also to Secretary of Labor Perkins to that effect. The longshoremen are all organized in squads of 11 men for picket service. The heads of each squad were told to keep their men in readiness at any time. The hall was jammed with longshoremen. They claim that the employers are trying to stick a sliver in their brain by false reports that this a.m. that union has busted up or sold out but for the men not to pay any attention to them. The longshoremen seemed very much disappointed on account of the postponement of the strike, they were all raring to strike. It looks like plenty of trouble ahead on the waterfront. Mr. Anderson of the Labor Council sent down two letters stating that they were 100% behind the strike. They seem to have faith in Bjorklund from Tacoma and they have decided to name delegates for every move they make. This motion wasn't passed and they decided to put it up before the executives board. The meeting adjourned at 11 p.m. It was a very noisy house.



## REPORT ON ILA MEETING APRIL 5 1934.

Meeting called to order at 8:25 p.m. Three new members initiated, all strangers on the Portland waterfront but described by their sponsors as militant fighting brothers; The communist speakers dominated the meeting. A Mr. Walker an organizer for the communist party made a very fiery speech in which he stated, himself and all the communists in every port in the world are behind the longshoremen in their class struggle and would fight to a finish for them. He said that the demonstration in front of the Employers hall was just a sample of their solidarity, They are going to appoint a committee to protest to Chief Lawson and Mayor Carson against the arrest of their banner carriers. Operative talked to many conservative longshoremen who are disgusted with the meeting; they all voiced the opinion that instead of meeting in the Labor Temple they should hold meetings in the Park blocks. One ILA member stated to a group "We are not interested in communism, what we want is recognition of our union". The Union is badly split and it is now in control of radicals who are not employed as longshoremen. The Waterfront Employers can anticipate trouble as the radicals are going to strike, a resolution was put through to have a special meeting Sunday at 2 P.M. and wire all Columbia River and Northern ports to have delegates present. Mr. Bjorklund who had left the San Francisco meeting is going to be ordered to appear and show cause why he disregarded his instructions of closed shop \$1.00 and \$1.50 per hour, and why he did not issue the strike call when he did not get what he was instructed to ask for. The radicals are all against Bjorklund. A telegram was read from Jack Ahern, Portland delegate in which he stated "nothing is settled definitely but have basis to work on, Looks very favorable, Dont pay any attention to employers propoganda". Mr. Mat Meahan, ex business agent got the floor and stated it looks like we were sold out in Frisco but the Columbia River and all northern ports will stand shoulder to shoulder. He stated we voted to strike for recognition, our own system of hiring and we wont accept anything else. He said a certain employer told him that they could have a desk in the hall and a voice in the dispatching but he stated that they would be awful suckers to fall for that as the employers would have every ILA members out of the hall in less than one year. It was stated that Holman of the ILA in San Francisco had received several phone calls telling him he would be planted among the daisies if he did not change his attitude. Adams, Portland delegate to Frisco stated that if the Employers of Portland wished to fight they would give them plenty, He said Frisco and Pedro can go to hell as we wont accept any of their terms, he stated we have the support of the unemployed league the Marine Industrial Workers Union and we will have fighting, militant pickets by the thousands on the Columbia River. The fact finding committee was critized by several speakers, they claim they are dominated by the employers and against the workers. The meeting broke up and collected in groups. It was stated on every side that President Davis of the Waterfront Employers told them in the Oregonian that they had not gained anything and would not get anything as they had to accept the present setup. Operative talked to several radicals who stated the Portland longshoremen were weak kneed and had to have a fighting organization like the Marine Industrial Workers Union behind them to show them the way. One radical told operative that they have a majority of their members in every crew of every vessel touching this port and they would tie up all shipping as soon as the strike was called.



## REPORT ON ILA MEETING APRIL 12 1934

Meeting called to order at 8:30 p.m. approximately 600 present. Three new members initiated, they are from car gangs on one of the terminals. Two speakers from the Communist party were introduced who made a very strong plea for support from the longshoremen in their fight to prevent the deportation of Mr. Baer to Germany. They claim he is being railroaded on account of his activity in behalf of the working class. Another speaker made a strong talk for financial assistance for Mr. Gust Anderson in his candidacy for State Labor Commissioner. The local went on record to contribute towards it. Mr. Peterson from San Pedro was given the floor and he made a very lengthy talk on the New Deal; he said San Francisco and San Pedro considered that they had won the principle point when the employers agreed to deal with and recognize the ILA and the employers in all other ports had to follow suit; he advised the union men in Portland to put up a union labor committee and cast a solid ballot for this committee and when we are dealing with the employers we will soon eliminate all slave driving tactics of the employers and make conditions so good for the men that non union men will come into the fold of their own free will and in a short time we will have a 100% organization on the Pacific Coast and while we have gained recognition we still have the right to strike anytime we wish and when we do strike we will go out as a unit on the Coast. He said the first thing for the committee to put over was to stop dock men from doing longshore work, he stated all car unloading was longshoremen's work and he said eight men is a hold gang at all times; he also said we must fight to have our representative in the office to prevent the fink dispatchers from discriminating against active union brothers. Peterson has been trained as a lawyer and makes a very good speech. He received quite an ovation at the conclusion of his talk. Three delegates from Seattle said Judge Reynolds will be in Portland Monday April 16th. One of the delegates stated that the Judge was very favorable to labor as he watched the hiring on the waterfront of Frisco one morning at 6 a.m. He quoted the Judge as stating it was disgraceful as policemen were moving men along at the Ferry Building. The delegates also stated they were going to fight in Seattle to eliminate the four hiring halls and place all longshoremen in one hall. All Columbia River ports reported that they will have delegates here on Monday to meet Judge Reynolds. Peterson stated he would stay over and present their case to the Judge. They are very confident they will win everything except their own hall, but they expect to get that in a short time. One member of the executive board stated the employers have renewed their lease on the hall and stated it would make a good gear locker for the stevedores. The meeting was the only orderly meeting ever held as the door man had instructions to keep out all drunks. The executive board is meeting in secret session Sunday at 2 p.m. to make plans for the election and to draw up written demands to submit to Judge Reynolds.