



Canadian

WATERFRONT NEWS

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THE SQUAMISH BLUNDER

No one is talking (as yet), as to which Director was going to show the General Manager of the Shipping Federation (George McKee) how to handle the ILWU - whoever he was, he did a good job. We hope they allow him to make many more decisions before our negotiations open next year. We were all getting somewhat rusty and complacent - whoever this jerk is, he has about as much skill as an elephant on a skate board!

It seems McKee got the word we were on the prowl for information and he warned them of the consequences if they did not live up to the contract, but they listened to this jerk, along with their fine legal staff, instead of their knowledgeable manager, result - chaos!! At this point, George McKee had a sudden urge for holidays and before the "Week of the Tiger" was over, the rookie at the controls, stepped back and let the men at the problem.

You do not have to blow on the bugle too hard to rouse our members to the "cause", especially when our jobs are in the pot, and all of the Locals on the lower mainland put their best effort forward, until our "job rights" were correctly stowed away.

During the period of our struggle at Squamish, a news release in the Vancouver Sun stated 184 million dollars worth of propane was to be exported in the next fifteen years and since that release, Bonner our Attorney-General has stated an additional drive must be made for even more export due to the loss of a planned American pipe line market - we in the ILWU intend playing it like Johnny Longden "Get out in front or get out of the way" --- we will be out in front!!

As if it was not bad enough for this unnamed director to make a decision only an opportunist would make, he had to drag a salaried employee into it by the name of Pat Fagan, who had the fine job of fingering our people, so injunctions could be served and recorded for future action. I'd have taken the long walk to the showers before anyone could get me to sell my soul for a pocket full of nothing. How the hell can any Local or Official of this Union possibly deal with Pat Fagan now - this is his third offence in this field, and today we went on record in Joint Industry Labour Relations Committee that it was doubtful if the Industry as a whole would not suffer by leaving him in a position of contact with our people. It's only a normal reaction for our people to resent his presence in the same field or room!

Copy: Mr. Geo. Murray, O.C.

If nothing else, Squamish has shown our people that collectively we can more than hold our own - face our problems together and our chances in finding "the magic number" are much better!! (See August 10th Bulletin "Events Leading to Squamish Lockout").

We did hear of some Union people who claimed no knowledge of what was going on (including some salaried people) - we say, get off your backsides and pack a placard, the message comes easy then, and quickly -- just the same as elections!!

The Grain Handlers Strike is over, and the longshoremen were the first to assist them financially. The Regional Director, Craig Pritchett advanced them \$3,000.00 when their pockets got nearly empty, and the Area Executive Board approved of this. The Area will be the collection agency and we are asking our Locals to raise \$1.00 per man to repay this money.

Due to no meetings of some Locals in the summer, and the immediate need of our Brothers, we had faith in our rank and file to take this step. We attended many meetings under the auspices of the B. C. Federation of Labour and did our level best to assist these workers - I am ashamed to report to you, that the total amount to this Bulletin that was raised in the labour movement for these people was under \$10,000 - \$3,000 of this from the I.L.W.U.

It is interesting to note the Stevedoring Companies paid their foremen to July 1st, under the new Labour Code C-126 - sure going to need a lot of foremen now they admit they come under the Act. We are asking for an enquiry, as is the Shipping Federation.

Progress has been recorded regarding an over-all industry pension. Alan Pierce of Mercer's and Emil Bjarnason, have been instructed by the Joint Industry Committee to come up with a suitable, workable solution. Some of our pensionable Union members are on Social Assistance, for they have greater benefits there, than on pension - time for adjustment in our pensions.

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S
AND WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION

August 18th 1965