

## Conciliation Move In Sugar Strike Near; Both Sides Willing

Joint conciliation by federal and territorial officials was being considered today in a move to bring the sugar industry and the ILWU (CIO) into negotiations again.

Shortly before noon, Fred Irwin, U. S. commissioner of conciliation, and L. Q. McComas, director of the territorial department of labor and industrial relations, went into conference to discuss the sugar strike situation, now in its fourth day.

Both industry and union representatives today expressed willingness to have government intervention after previously rejecting the mediation offers by Mr. Irwin and Mr. McComas during negotiations.

Dwight C. Steele, industry's chief negotiator, held conversations with the two government officials this morning.

In a letter to Mr. Irwin, dated Wednesday, Mr. Steele said: "We have not previously answered your letter of August 28, 1946, because the course of the sugar negotiations

during the latter part of last week indicated that there was some hope of reaching agreement prior to the union strike deadline.

"Even though the strike has now actually been called, we are still hopeful that a settlement will be worked out by direct negotiations; and we intend, of course, to meet with the union representatives for that purpose at any time that such meetings will be productive.

"We do, however, want to express our sincere appreciation to you for your offers to assist the parties and we will be glad to participate in conciliation if there is a consensus that it would contribute to a settlement."

## Washington Ready To Take Hand in Strike

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The federal government seems anxious to undertake conciliation of Hawaii's sugar strike, it was learned here today, but can not take action until invited to do so by one or the other side involved in the dispute.

The federal conciliation service headed by Edgar Warren has notified the sugar industry and union leaders of its readiness to undertake negotiations.

Department of agriculture officials also are keeping close watch on the Hawaii situation, anxious for action that would halt the costly walkout.

Once it takes charge, it was explained, the conciliation service can arrange conferences between parties to the dispute in an effort to effect an early end to the strike.

At present the service's representative in Honolulu is standing by, waiting for word to take action.

There is evidence in Washington that if the strike continues the government may act more aggressively, because of the importance of sugar production to a nation already short on supplies of the commodity.

One report said John Steelman, former conciliation service leader and now one of President Truman's right hand men, may enter the picture.

## Boost in Sugar Prices Planned At Washington

A nationwide increase of 91 cents per 100 pounds for raw sugar and \$1 per 100 pounds for refined sugar is expected to be announced soon, The Star-Bulletin learned today.

The price jump has no direct connection with Hawaii's present sugar strike and the ILWU's demands for higher wages. It would have a positive bearing on the situation, however, and might even set the stage for a settlement.

The rise, according to informed sources, is based on the American purchase of the Cuban sugar crop

which was taken at a price too high for the present sugar ceiling.

The increase of 91 cents on raw sugar would wipe out the present federal subsidy of 60 cents per 100 pounds and leave an actual net increase of 31 cents per 100 pounds.

The sugar industry here has recently warned that any price increase would have to be in excess of 65 cents to be of any help in the present wage demands here. Each increase allowed reduces the subsidy by an equal amount.

# MOVE FOR SUGAR TALKS

### Labor Act Won't Fit Situation In Sugar Strike

Governor Stainback based his decision to stay out of the sugar dispute on the fact that no unfair labor practices were involved and, consequently, he had no authority under the Hawaii Employment Relations act, it was learned Tuesday. The attorney general's office gave him a written opinion of its interpretation of the law and outlined his powers.

The HERA provides for the governor to appoint a mediator when the Hawaii employment relations board reports the existence of unfair labor practices in a dispute.

It also covers certain other specific things, none of which was involved in the sugar situation.

# Sharp Boost In Sugar Prices Seen