

LABOR PARALYZES SUGAR STRIKE HITS

SUGAR SUPPLY GROWS SCARCE

An acute sugar shortage in Honolulu within two weeks if the strike continues was predicted today by an industry official.

Honolulu Plantation Co. mill at Aiea, which refines 33,000 tons of sugar annually, distributed its last trainload of refined sugar to Honolulu warehouses Friday night.

Only two weeks' supply is now on hand in the "channels of trade"—wholesalers and retail stores, the official estimated. Some grocery stores, already feeling the pinch, are

limiting housewives to five pounds each.

The official said the territory does not import refined sugar but relies on the Aiea refinery. Maui Agricultural Co. Paia, by a "wash process," produces about 6,000 tons a year.

All other mills grind raw sugar for shipment to mainland refineries.

The official described summer as the peak period of sugar consumption here. As a result consumers have "overbought" the last two months supply.

All Hawaii's Plantations Are Tied Up

Labor unions are parading today in observance of Labor Day while simultaneously the union strike at midnight Saturday has tied up completely the territory's biggest industry.

With Labor Day a general holiday throughout the territory, wholesale and retail businesses being almost entirely closed, the second day of the strike has started as quietly as the first—which was Sunday.

In Honolulu the AFL and the CIO both scheduled extensive parades for today, with pointed reference to the strike of the sugar workers in banners, signs on floats and other symbols.

Reports to The Star-Bulletin from all the major islands of the territory say that both Sunday and today were without disorder.

Picketing by union members began early Sunday—in fact, there was what amounted to "token picketing" shortly after midnight Saturday at some places.

Emphatic instructions by the ILWU to its representatives throughout Hawaii were to keep the picketing peaceful. These representatives and the membership generally of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union were cautioned to avoid any disorder.

Union members were called into mass meeting Sunday on all islands, and instructions given on conduct of the strike.

Late Sunday Robert McElrath, information director of the ILWU, which is a CIO union, said that the strike was 100 per cent effective, with workers on 33 plantations quitting their various occupations.

Anticipating the strike, plantations everywhere were ceasing late last week to cut cane. Thus they were able, probably in most cases, to haul to the mills and grind the cane that had been cut.

Losses of cut cane are therefore not expected to be heavy.

But the plantations will begin losing production at once, and the fields, untended, will soon be weedy.

Plantations which require irrigation for their cane will lose also because the thirsty cane will not get the water it must have—or slowly die.

Full effects of the strike will not be visible until Tuesday. Normally, some 28,500 workers would be on the job at the 33 plantations, barring a few necessarily idle by illness or otherwise.

Tomorrow, according to prospects today, few if any will report for work.

Hawaii Sugar Strike Wins Cuba Backing

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 7. (U.P.)—Harry Bridges, president of the CIO longshoremen and representative of striking Hawaiian sugar workers, conferred today with Latin American labor leaders on a plan for "joint and concerted action" by workers who produce 80 per cent of the sugar used in the United States.

He admitted a "complete sugar strike is possible sometime in the future."

Bridges said further action hinged on future conferences, with possibly the next in Havana.

In the first example of concerted action, Latin American representatives pledged Puerto Rican and Cuban workers "not to permit either sugar plantation and mill owners or profit-seeking crop speculators to break the strike of Hawaiian sugar workers."

Bridges said the conferees agreed to extend "immediate financial, moral and political support" to the 25,000 Hawaiian strikers who want a raise from 49 to 65 cents per hour.

Other points subscribed to by the conference included:

1. "Joint and concerted action by all if necessary to correct the substandard wages and conditions now prevailing throughout the industry.

2. "To make every effort to force the sugar planters and mill owners to abandon their present universal practice of imposing a system of colonial slavery upon the sugar workers.

3. "To make the American people that buy and consume almost the entire sugar crop of Hawaii, Cuba and Puerto Rico aware of the fact that present high prices are not caused by high wages of sugar workers."

U. S. sugar workers later will be asked to join in the move to combine "the full, economic and political strength of the United States, Hawaiian, Cuban and Puerto Rican sugar workers," Bridges said.

SUGGESTIONS HEARD THAT WASHINGTON MAY INTERVENE

While industry and union negotiators waited for the other to make the next move, there were suggestions federal intervention might bring an end to Hawaii's biggest strike.

Some observers think that Washington officials will step into the dispute because sugar is considered an essential food, still rationed on the mainland and vitally needed by

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