

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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ESAS SUGAR

Union Says Strike Solid, No Violence

Labor Officials Confer With Kauai Strikers

By WILLIAM LEONG
Star-Bulletin Correspondent
LIHUE, Kauai, Sept. 7 (Via
Radiophone)—The strike situation
on Kauai Friday was highlighted by
a visit from Jack Hall, Louis Gold-
blatt and Richard Labez, who ar-
rived in the late afternoon.

The three labor officials met with
a large group of strikers in a gen-
eral meeting at the Isenberg gym-
nasium and then conferred until a
very late hour with local strike
strategy committeemen. They left
for Honolulu this morning.

"Soliciting financial donations by
the various financial committees
of the union's strategy committee
from business establishments
throughout the island has been
going on for several days, with
some units already completing
their canvassing work."

The strikers here are expecting
their share of \$1,000 bags of pota-
toes and 1,000 cases of milk which
are now in Honolulu and will be
distributed to union locals through-
out the territory, according to Y.
Morimoto, business agent of Local
149, CIO.

An expected drop in milk produc-
tion, because of the lack of grass
and the limited supply of feed was
reported by Allen Faye, manager
of the Waimea dairy.

"We only have sufficient grass
to feed the 290 cows we are milk-
ing for four or five days," Mr.
Faye said.

"Although our normal production
was 2,500 quarts daily and we are
producing only 2,100 quarts, I ex-
pect the further drop because of the
lack of grass and limited feed sup-
ply," he continued. "We produced
only 1,600 quarts daily when we
did not have any feed in the month
of June."

Mr. Faye also reported that the
Waimea dairy had to disband its
plans to make chocolate milk for
the schools because of the lack of
sugar.

Not a single case of violence by a
sugar striker has occurred, the
ILWU (CIO) reported today.

The union at the same time
charged plantation managers with
attempting to pressure lunas into
acting as strike breakers.

"The statement was issued by
Jack W. Hall, regional director,
after completing a territory wide
tour with Louis Goldblatt, inter-
national secretary-treasurer, and
Ricardo Labez, assistant."

"Our survey of strike machinery
has shown that the strike is 100 per
cent solid," said Mr. Hall's state-
ment.

"No work except that author-
ized by the union on utilities is
being performed. The high de-
gree of solidarity and discipline
among the strikers is little short
of amazing."

"Few, if any, of the workers in-
volved in this strike have had any
prior experience in situations of
this kind."

"The fact that there has not been
one single case of violence, even
though the strike is already one
week old, clearly demonstrates our

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Union Statement

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members' sense of responsibility and
discipline.

"This is in spite of many reported
cases of employer provocation.

"We view with alarm employer-
inspired stories that violence is in
the making."

"It confirms stories brought to
us by scores of lunas that the
plantation managers are attempt-
ing to force them to act as strike
breakers and perform the work
normally done by our members."

"We believe that this pressure is
deliberately conceived to provoke
violence but our unblemished rec-
ord during the first week should be
ample proof that we intend to abide
by the law.

"Genuine supervisors, such as
managers, assistant managers and
mill superintendents, will be per-
mitted to pass through the picket
lines without any moral persuasion
being used against them.

"However, we are not going to
let any worker scab on us if we can
legally stop him."

"Over 80 per cent of the lunas are
with us or are either out or com-
ing out on strike for their own de-
mands. Before the strike com-
menced we informed the employers
that we represented a majority of
the lunas. One of the issues in dis-
pute is recognition for lunas and a
contract covering their wages and
conditions of employment.

"They, too, will have job secur-
ity, real seniority rights, and wage
rates comparable with their duties
before the strike ends. Other
workers will support them to the
end."

"We do not expect any violence,
but if it comes, it will only be
because the employers are trying
to smash the union with strike
breakers. Bona fide supervisors per-
forming their customary work, we
again emphasize, will not be inter-
fered with."