

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S & WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION

S.F.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

November 30, December 1, 1948

STATEMENT OF POLICY

ONE MARITIME UNION

The historic desire of all maritime workers to join together and be represented by one union covering the entire maritime industry has been given new vigor by recent events. It is not beyond reason to assume that one union, firm in its resolve, would have been strong enough to have won justice for all maritime workers without the 1948 strikes of the several unions.

The existence of several unions, always poorly coordinated with the one outstanding exception of their cooperation through the Committee for Maritime Unity in 1946, has always made the fighting harder for each union and the gains costly. Moreover, employers have always been able to take advantage of the lack of coordination to keep every union in constant jeopardy.

The 1946 experience is positive proof that one union would greatly advance the conditions of all maritime workers, for it was in that year when a majority of the unions were acting as one through the Committee for Maritime Unity that maritime workers, particularly seafaring workers, made their greatest gains since maritime union organization began.

We believe that amalgamation of all maritime unions into one industrial union should be carried forward at once.

We therefore call upon the national CIO to call a conference of all CIO and independent maritime unions to arrange mechanics by which the unions each can enter one union in a body, elect officers and adopt a constitution.

We instruct President Harry Bridges to present this statement to the next meeting of the national CIO executive board and press for its implementation.

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