5,000 dockers face bleak Christmas

"To most of us the Christmas won't be merry if our present strike continues to Christmas time. We shan't have much money in our pocket."

Yet despite the prospect of gloomy Christmas facing the 5,000 striking members of the local International Longshoremen Association, Archie Doswell, local 858 vice-president maintains, "members will not be compelled by any circumstances to go to work with a well-executed contract."

"We won't go to work that way," he told the AFRO in a telephone interview. He said they have won a court case to prove that their strike action was motivated purely by local conditions and not by any action taken by longshoremen elsewhere.

He stated the court has told them to seek for proper contract that would protect their interest.

Last two weeks saw the local association in two law entaglements with chippers and the federal district court over their strike action.

They won the first case brought against them by National Labour Board on behalf of shippers that the strike action was within the unfair labor practices act, and that the strike was in support of striking longshorement in New York.

They however, lost the second suit which charged them with contempt of court when ordered by Judge James Miller to return to court but failed to do so.

Doswell said reports reaching local office from Miami where shippers and representatives of ILA are negotiating for new contract are encouraging.

The Miami meeting is discussing master issues such as wages, length of contract, pension, welfare, holidays and last barth.

On the local level, according to Doswell, local 858 representatives met shippers for negotiations. He would not disclose what was discussed but said they "made some progress."

The meeting cannot continue because the local 858 has sent most of its key representatives to Miami.

Meanwhile, members of the local 858 are preparing for their December ballot.

Archie Doswell will be making attempt to seek office for the fourth time as vice-president. Mr. Garris McFadden will oppose Hershey Richard of cargo handling for the presidency.

Also seeking the vice-presidency are Benjamin Smith and John Maid.

William Parrish, secretary treasurer, and James Caldwell, are unopposed in the upcoming elections. They will be serving their term in office.

By the way...

by Joe Black

Quite often, people develop their personal pride and character based upon quotations they hear or read. To encourage and inspire the young students of Hubbard Jr. High, where I taught, I presented to the school a copy of a prayer that had been given to me by my friend, Baseball Hall of Fame member Roy Campanella. I'd like to share this moving prayer, by an unknown author, with you.

A GAME GUY'S PRAYER

Help me to be a little sport in this game of life. I don't ask for any place in the line-up; play me where You need me. I only ask for the stuff to give You one hundred per cent of what I've got. If all the hard drives come my way, I thank You for the compliment. Help me to remember that You won't let anything come that You and I together can't handle. And help me to take the bad breaks as part of the game. Help make me thankful for them.

And God, help me to always play on the square, no matter what the other players do.

Help me to come clean. Help me to see that often the best part of the game is helping other guys. Help me to be a "regular fellow" with the other players.

Finally, God, if fate seems to upper cut me with both hands and I'm laid on the shelf in sickness or old age, help me to take that as a part of the game also. Help me not to whimper or squeal that the game was a frame-up or that I had a raw deal. When in the dusk I get the final bell, I ask for no lying complimentary stones. I'd only like to know that You feel I've been a good guy.

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation

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