

Murphy's Men Intervene in S.F. Strike

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Move Is Effort to Invoke Anti-Trust Act on Coast

(Special to the Sunday Worker)
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30. —
Waterfront employers were seen behind the move to invoke the Sherman Anti-Trust Act against the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union of the CIO yesterday as representatives of the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation men stepped into the dock strike situation here.

The first step taken was to call President Harry Bridges of the union to a conference with two representatives of Attorney General Frank Murphy's office. They were Morris Clark, special representative working here under Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold, investigating the building trades industry, and James Hayes, also of the department.

The two had with them District Attorney Frank J. Hennessey. Bridges was accompanied by the

(Continued on Page 4)

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(Continued from Page 1)

union's attorney Richard Gladstein and other union officials.

While no details of the conference were made public, it was learned that the present seven-week stoppage on the San Francisco waterfront due to refusal by the Waterfront employers to enter into an agreement with the checkers, was gone over.

Several days ago, when a report was current that employers are preparing to demand application of the anti-trust act against the waterfront unions just as it is being applied against building trades labor, Bridges declared that it is rather the shipowners who "have ordered the ports of Oakland and Stockton shut down, against the will of shippers and public alike."

Following the conference with the FBI men, Gladstein issued the following statement:

"Clark, special assistant to the U. S. Attorney General out here to investigate violations of the anti-trust act in the building trades, called on me a day before yesterday and stated he would like to discuss certain problems with representative leaders of longshore unions.

"Clark stated he did not ask us there to any inquisition and assured us that no efforts had been made to obtain any indictment.

"We answered all questions freely and I did not object to either Harry Bridges, Henry Schmidt or Germain Bulcke answering any questions put to them.

"After the discussion I spoke for the men and asked Clark to investigate the San Francisco waterfront on our charge that the employers had shut down the port in restraint of trade. We gave him the facts and asked him to take action. He did not state whether he would take any action at all."