

Harry Bridges— Working Stiff

SAN FRANCISCO.—Why is Harry Bridges the target of powerful interests?

That question has been asked by many a person. And when they meet Bridges, those people are even more mystified.

For Harry Bridges is just a working stiff. He's just a guy who's been chosen by his union membership to lead them; to take the lead in fighting their battles.

Bridges, tall, lean, angular, is 40 years old. He came to the United States in 1920, after some years of beating about the world as an ordinary seaman.

After sailing along the coast for several years in the merchant marine and the coast guard, Bridges settled in San Francisco and became a longshoreman.

Coming from Australia, where labor, at that time, had a much greater voice in government than here, Bridges was amazed at the conditions existing on the waterfront.

In those days, before the 1934 Pacific coast waterfront strike, average earnings of longshoremen totaled \$10.45 a week.

Stevedores worked under the shape-up system by which they had to hang around the docks.

Harry Bridges worked on the San Francisco waterfront and saw the advent of the NRA. Men joined the newly chartered International Longshoremen's Association.

The employers fought this new surge of labor organization with spies, bribery, blacklisting, goon squads, discharge of militant union men.

When the 1934 strike broke, Harry Bridges was elected chairman of the strike committee and led the 1934 San Francisco general strike which firmly established unionism on the waterfront.

When things settled down, Bridges was elected president of

the San Francisco local of the ILA.

When John L. Lewis led the demand for industrial unionism, Bridges saw the wisdom of his policy and advised the ILA to move over to the CIO. So was born the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

Bridges soon was appointed California's CIO director.

The membership, confident by now that they had an unbuyable, incorruptible leader, has elected Bridges again and again as leader of the union.

Seek Ruin Of Defense

SAN FRANCISCO—On top of its other persecution of Harry Bridges, the prosecution seems determined to break the Bridges defense committee financially.

The rules provide that Bridges' attorneys must pay witnesses for the defense. They must not only have their transportation paid, but must be recompensed for time lost.

The prosecution, however, apparently needs to pay only for mileage, board and fees "at rates not to exceed those usually allowed by the United States district court for the district in which the testimony is taken." (Immigration rules and regulations.)

This means that hostile witnesses who may be subpoenaed to appear by the defense can ask exorbitant rates for testifying. In the first trial in 1939, this was done by Larry Loyle, a professional labor spy.



MRS. CAROL KING AUBREY GROSSMAN
Dig into trunk for records of FBI witnesses