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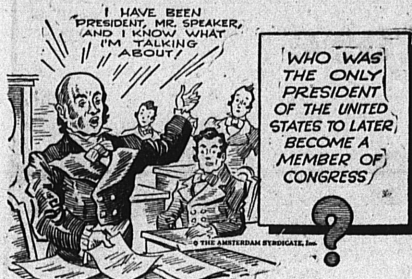
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V. Thomas Urges Minimum of 55 Cents For Merchant Seamen of U.S.

"Merchant seamen are the most underpaid section of American workers," Vincent Thomas, State Assemblyman for the 68th Dist., declared in a statement to the National Maritime Union in San Pedro. "I feel that the American people have placed too little importance on work the seamen are doing. They have the responsible job of delivering the materials that factory workers produce, right to the place of use by our troops—right to the front lines."

"To urge that the bonus cut scheduled for July 15 be postponed, until the ship operators and the union negotiating committee can agree on wage adjustments," the Assemblyman's statement continued, "is good, common sense, in the interest of a stable, efficient Merchant Marine. The seamen have done a swell job, and any kind of wage reduction is a reward for their sacrifices, especially when America's war effort has to be stepped up in the all-out war against Japan."

"If the public considers that a seaman is paid all his wages at the end of a voyage, the 'big money' seamen are supposed to be making makes a different story."

"I am one hundred per cent for your program for the 55 cent hour minimum for seamen," Assemblyman Thomas' statement concluded.

Members of the National Maritime Union (CIO) are picketing all offices of the War Shipping Administration, as part of the wage adjustment program. War bonuses in the Arctic, North Atlantic, and Mediterranean are scheduled for reduction July 15. Inasmuch as bonuses were granted in lieu of wage increases, seamen have had no wage increases since the beginning of the war, and the proposed reduction will mean a 35% cut in wages.

The union's proposals for establishment of the 55 cent hourly minimum set by Congress, has been flatly rejected by the operators (represented by the American Merchant Marine Institute). The U. S. Conciliation Service of the Dept. of Labor has already certified the union's case to the National War Labor Board.

Local picket lines have been established in front of the War Shipping Administration offices on 7th st., in San Pedro and the Spring st., in Los Angeles. Pickets began their task, to bring the truth about the 34 1/2 cents an hour average wage for American merchant seamen to the American public, on Tuesday morning.

A mass picket line, to be participated in by all men with time on the beach, was voted by the Union's membership in a special meeting July 11 in San Pedro. It will continue. Members and their wives appeal to the public to support the seamen's campaign for adoption of the 55 cent hourly minimum, in place of the present wage of 34 1/2 cents an hour for Ordinary Seamen.

The union reminds the public that Congressional reports and statements lauding the seamen as heroes who have done a job that heaped glory upon them, are not sufficient to pay bills and family expenses. Even at the present time, an able seaman is paid a base rate of \$100 a month, a weekly average of \$25. The shipowners' "argument" to the effect that any upward adjustment of wages will make it impossible for them to compete with foreign shippers, union spokesmen declare, is strictly "phony." All workers would have to take a wage cut, if such anti-United Nations propaganda is considered.

Neil Crowe, acting agent in the port of San Pedro, declared that the National Maritime Union wishes to make clear to the public that this action of the seamen is not a violation of the union's no-strike pledge. "Our members, at the previous convention in 1943," Crowe stated, "reaffirmed a pledge to their dead shipmates, that we will not strike and that we will 'Keep 'Em Sailing' until Fascism, both abroad and at home, is wiped from the face of the earth. We have kept 'em sailing, and we will continue to do so, but we have no intention of standing by and quietly permitting the ship owners and the Maritime War Emergency Board, or the War Shipping Administration to torpedo our living standards while we are busy delivering the supplies and fighting materials to your boys at the front."

Installation Of Rebekahs Open to Public

Fronia Branaugh will be installed as noble grand, Trio Rebekah Lodge of Lomita, Wednesday evening, July 25, at the V. F. W. Hall.

Mamie Jones, district deputy president, and her staff will be the installing team and the public is invited to attend the ceremonies.

Supporting Mrs. Branaugh will be Retta Nelson Jr., past noble grand; Tirzah Taber, vice grand; Ethel Waite, recording secretary; Ada Anderson, treasurer; Julia Keys, warden; Marie Eaton, conductor; Emma Applin, chaplain; Olive Veatch, right support to noble grand; Gertrude Kastrop, left support to noble grand; Lena Omohundro, right support to vice grand; Georgia Tappin, left support to vice grand; Madge Wilson, inside guardian; Pearl Montonye, outside guardian; Mary L. Branaugh, assistant to warden; Norma Clung, assistant to conductor; Madge Mehler, musician; Nellie Farquhar, color bearer; Vera Lockett and Helen Kupps, altar bearers; Phoebe Sykes, right support to junior past noble guardian, and Clara Conner, left support to junior past noble guardian.

HONORABLE DISCHARGE
N. J. (Nick) Chaykowski, A.R. M., 2/c, USN, arrived here last week following his honorable discharge from service. He had been stationed at Columbus, Ohio, where he was attached to a radio and radar maintenance division.

ON FURLOUGH
Pvt. Jack A. Dabbs arrived Saturday from Camp Crowder, Mo., where he is attending Signal Corps School, for a furlough with his wife and their two children, who live at 2064 W. 220th st.

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Charles T. Scott At Naval Station In Norfolk, Va.

Charles Thomas Scott, 22, machinist's mate, third class, USN, of Torrance, has arrived at the Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Va., to train for duties aboard a new destroyer of the Atlantic Fleet.

He has spent two years on an attack transport in the Atlantic and Pacific. He wears ribbons for the American area, the European-African-Middle Eastern area, and the Asiatic-Pacific area.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Scott, 1410 218th st., Torrance. Before enlisting in the Navy, he was employed by the Cramps Shipbuilding Co., Philadelphia. He graduated from Hadfield Memorial high school.

MILKERS NEEDED

Men with recent experience as milkers are urged to register at their nearest labor office for jobs paying from \$205 to \$375 a month. Carl J. Williams, extension service farm placement director said today. Some 160 milkers are needed desperately.

New Discharges For Marines On Limited Duty

Limited duty ex-Marines discharged since last March 1 for the convenience of the government will be given honorable discharges under a new policy announced by the Marine Corps today.

The men formerly were granted discharges "under honorable conditions." They will receive their new certificates upon application to Marine headquarters in Washington, D. C.

The new ruling also will apply to limited duty men discharged in the future for the convenience of the government, according to the announcement.

Limited duty men, not fit for combat because of over-age, physical defects, or disabilities acquired since entering the service, upon their own application have been discharged "under honorable conditions" since last March 1. Before that time, they received honorable discharges.

The new policy will apply only to those men whose proficiency

ratings were above 3.8 and whose conduct ratings were above 4.0. Limited duty men whose markings are below those figures will continue to be discharged "under honorable conditions," the Marine Corps said. Also ineligible for honorable discharges are men who received two summary courts martial or one general court martial.

Further information may be obtained from the nearest Marine recruiting station.



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