

Port had 85 per cent increase

The Port of Anchorage recorded an 85 per cent increase in total cargo handled last year at 2.2 million tons over 1968's figure of 1.2 million tons, the port's 10-year tonnage report indicates.

But last year's total handle was 20.2 per cent down from 1976's 2.77 million tons and 22.6 per cent down from 1975's 2.8 million tons. Both years were bolstered by shipping related to the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

On the petroleum side of the ledger, last year's handle of 1.13 million tons (8.16 million barrels) was 31.2 per cent less than the prior year's 1.69 million tons (12.2 million barrels). And the figure for last year was 41 per cent less than 1975's total of 1.92 million tons (13.8 million barrels).

The most significant increase of 1977 over a decade ago came in the number of vehicles moved. Last year's figure of 40,360 marks a 6,396.3 per cent increase over 1968's figure of 63 and represents a 1,745.5 per cent increase over 1969's total of 2,187.

Vans, flats and containers also posted significant gains with 1977's figure of 978,584 representing a 250 per cent increase over the 1968 figure of 279,544.

The Port

Dear Editor:
I am writing to you as president of the United States Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association for northeast Ohio.

I examined your Port of Anchorage dock area. It is one of the finest I have ever seen. It is one that any city would be justifiably proud to have and utilize.

I then read your story of the retiring Chamber of Commerce head, Claire Banks, who spearheaded the drive to establish the Port of Anchorage docks. All citizens and businesses of the Anchorage area truly own him a debt. Because of his efforts they can live better for less.

James J. Bambrick
Cleveland Heights, Ohio



COAST GUARD CUTTER TO JOIN FESTIVITIES HERE

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Storis, homeported in Homer, will arrive in Anchorage Friday to participate in this year's Fur Rendezvous celebrations. She will be moored at North Terminal

No. 3 in the Port of Anchorage with open houses planned aboard the vessel from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday through Monday. Parking for visitors will be in area "C" next to the terminal.

Port Director Draws Suspension

By DON HUNTER
Times Staff Writer

One Port of Anchorage employee has resigned, another has been suspended 10 days and the director of the facility has been suspended five days in the wake of a continuing investigation into alleged misuse of port equipment and property.

Municipal Manager Douglas Weiford said this morning an investigation by Anchorage police and, later,

an administrative review, was begun after reports about six weeks ago that "property at the port was being utilized by port personnel" and that some employees were "using port equipment in the making of private projects."

Weiford said journeyman maintenance man David Kirsch Thursday "was asked to tender his resignation, which he did."

Kirsch said today he has

"provided additional information" on similar activities by other employees to Mayor George Sullivan and Employee Relations Director Fred Jones.

Weiford confirmed that Kirsch "made allegations concerning other employees" and that "these will be looked at now."

Kirsch was asked to resign for cutting up and taking home four pieces of steel tubing owned by Totem Ocean Trailer Express — which he and Weiford said Tote had been asked to remove from the port several times.

Also involved in the disciplinary actions were Port Director Bill McKinney, who received a five-day suspension, and welder Mike Jimerson, suspended 10 days, Weiford said.

Weiford said the McKinney suspension came because the port director "was in overall responsibility for whatever was going on there."

We "understood that this practice of doing work on municipal time, with municipal tools, had become a fairly common practice over the

past," Weiford said. "That's why the disciplinary action reached to the

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BILL MCKINNEY
Port Director

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highest level." McKinney was reluctant to talk about the situation, but said he has "no complaints at all" with his suspension. "We're going to clean up our act down there," he said.

Jimerson, who was suspended for 10 days, "was in the process of constructing a trailer unit for personal purposes," Weiford said.

Jimerson could not be contacted for comment today.

Kirsch said "what started the whole thing was a piece of 3-inch square steel tubing" belonging to Tote "that had laid on the dock for a year or a year-and-a-half."

"We had asked them several times to get it out of the way, but they never did... It had been in our way," he said.

Kirsch said the tubing was impeding repair work during winter freeze-up problems at the port and that he had cut the piece of steel up and placed it in the shop. Early this month, he said, he took four pieces of the bar.

Kirsch declined to comment further or to say whether he thinks his

forced resignation was fair until the investigation is concluded.

Weiford, who largely agreed with Kirsch's account of the incident, put the value of the Tote tubing at between \$300 and \$400. He said the situation was first reported "about six weeks ago."

"Initially we had the police conduct an investigation," he said. "They found not only evidence, but ready admission" that the incidents had occurred.

Police "reached the conclusion

that there was not sufficient evidence to warrant criminal prosecution" and "the case shifted to administrative handling."

An administrative hearing was conducted by himself, Sullivan and Jones last Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before the disciplinary decisions were issued Thursday, Weiford said.

Sullivan is in Washington, D.C., and Jones could not be reached for comment this morning.

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1978

3 port personnel disciplined

By SUZAN NIGHTINGALE
Daily News Staff Writer

The director of the Port of Anchorage has been suspended and two port employees disciplined following an investigation into misuse of port equipment and supplies.

Port director Bill McKinney and mechanic welder Mike Jimerson were suspended by Mayor George Sullivan Thursday after the investigation — conducted by Anchorage police and the municipal administration — indicated that port facilities and equipment had been used for personal purposes, labor relations director Fred Jones said Sunday.

PORT MECHANIC David Kirsch was permitted

to resign after he admitted removing some steel plate and cutting it up, Jones said. No charges are contemplated in the Kirsch case.

Jones said the investigation was instituted after administration officials received reports that some steel plating had been misappropriated at the port.

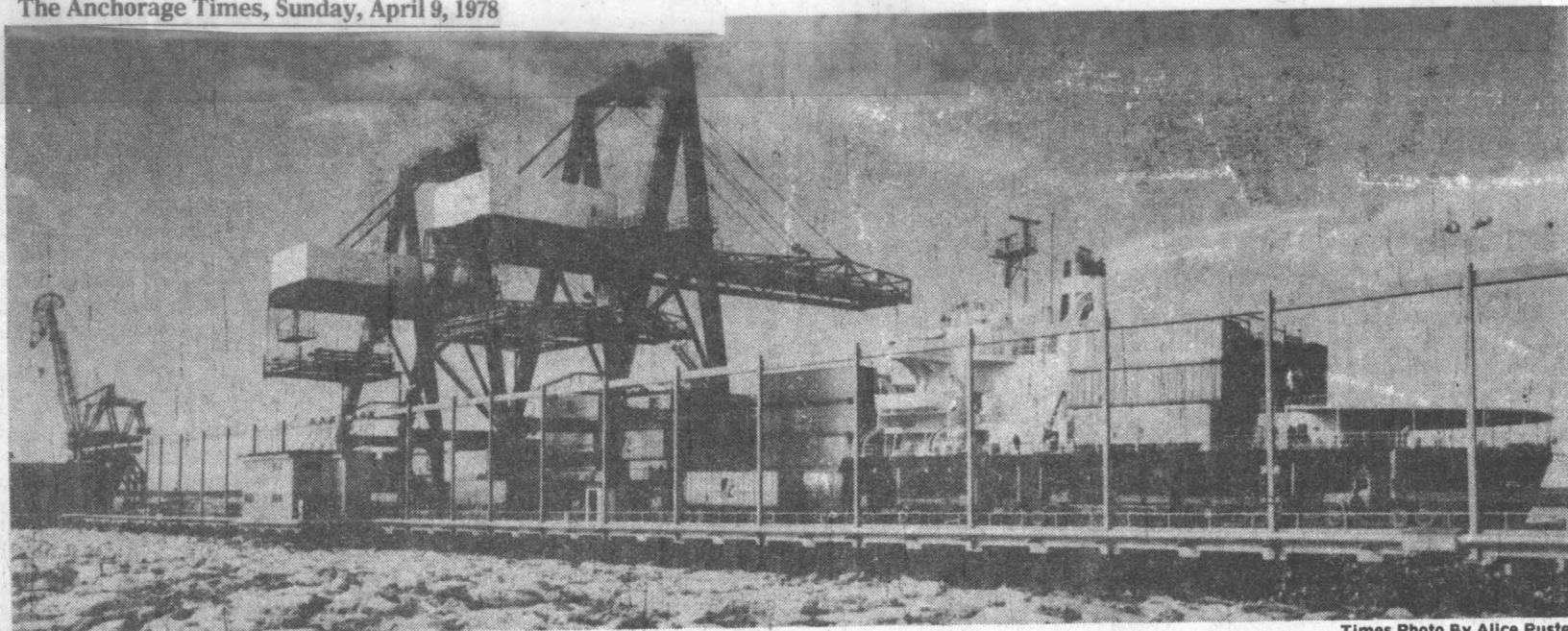
"We had a report that Kirsch was involved in some steel plate that had been misappropriated and cut up. We started with a police investigation, and after that, interviewed all port personnel except the clerical people."

ALTHOUGH KIRSCH admitted cutting up the steel plating, the investigation turned up other misuses of municipal property, Jones said.

Officials determined that Jimerson was using municipal equipment and municipal property for personal projects. Jimerson received a 10-day suspension without pay.

Port director McKinney was given a five-day suspension without pay. Jones said his suspension "is primarily for inattention to his responsibilities as a port director, for not being on top of these things."

McKinney is expected to be back on the job Friday. Until then, Sullivan has appointed assistant port director Carl Grumbles to be acting port director.



Times Photo By Alice Puster

PORT ACTIVITY SAYS IT'S DEFINITELY SPRING

Although there's still plenty of snow on the mountains and among the trees in the outlying areas, activities at the Port of Anchorage are at a springtime level. This picture taken from port's "backside," where high tides still bring in some ice although Cook Inlet itself is relatively free of it, shows a tanker

unloading at left and the Sea-Land Service Co.'s Galveston at right. Sea-Land has resumed its three-times-a-week sailing schedule between the Lower 48 and Alaska which the firm says will continue as long as the need exists. The three-vessels-a-week schedule usually continues through October.

Officials Conclude Port Investigation

An in-house investigation into misuse of property and equipment at the Port of Anchorage has been concluded, top administration officials said Friday.

The investigation surfaced Monday, when it was reported that Port Director Bill McKinney and a port employee had been suspended and another employee had been asked to resign after three days of administrative hearings before Mayor George Sullivan, Municipal Manager Doug Weiford and Employee Relations Director Fred Jones.

Weiford said Friday that one other employee, Brad Gabbart, has been suspended 10 days in an action he said was "unrelated" to the investigation.

Gabbart, a night-shift employee at the port, was suspended for working on his car during his shift, Weiford said.

Monday, Weiford reported the 10-day suspension of welder Mike Jimerson. Weiford said Jimerson had been suspended for constructing a trailer unit for his personal use on municipal time.

David Kirsch, a journeyman maintenance man, was asked to resign because he had cut up and taken home four pieces of a 3-inch square steel tube left at the port by Totem Ocean Trailer Express.

Both Kirsch and Weiford said the tubing had been left at the port for several months, and that Tote had been asked to remove it several times.

McKinney, the port director, received a five-day suspension because he was in charge of the port when the activities took place. McKinney returns to his port duties Monday.

Kirsch told The Times Monday he had provided additional evidence on similar activities by other employees to Jones and Sullivan.

Weiford said Friday the administration "looked at those things" and found "there was insufficient evidence to warrant a continuance" of the investigation.

"Unless there is additional evidence that comes to light, the investigation is closed," he said.

Friday afternoon Weiford, McKinney and new Transportation Department head Ron Garzini met with the port work force.

"I told them I realized they had been through a painful experience," Weiford said.

Weiford said he also "expressed the confidence of the mayor and myself in Bill McKinney's ability to manage the port" and "indicated

that the new director of transportation has been asked to undertake a thorough review" of port rules and regulations.

Garzini said the meeting included a review of the municipality's ethics ordinance.

We "pretty much said the investigation is concluded and let's get on with the work at hand," Garzini said.

Garzini joined the municipality two weeks ago.

Anchorage police initially began investigating the port problems about seven weeks ago.