

A non-union worker swings from cables dangling from a crane that helped unload the barge.



Longshoremen and Teamster pickets were on hand early Friday morning as unloading of an Anchorage Cold Storage barge began.

## Union picketing at Anchorage port results in violence, 8 arrests

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men's Union Local 1, Alaska Teamsters Local 959, and non-union dockworkers and truck drivers hired to unload a barge loaded with goods for Anchorage Cold Storage. Teamster-represented employees have been on strike against the food and beverage distributor since June 29.

Lt. Warren Suddock, the officer in charge at the scene, said policemen were forcing their way through the wall of pickets when some refused to move or began shoving back. "We used the hose to force the pickets back away from our officers," Suddock said. Two of the men who were arrested had tried to interfere with the arrest of a third, he said.

Pickets at the scene described the police reaction as unwarranted. "They're just being hard-assed," said one, who asked not to be identified. The picketer said the Teamsters had supported the police in labor disputes with the municipality, and questioned why the police were obstructing the pickets in this job action.

The Anchorage Police Department Employees Association formerly was represented at the bargaining table by the Teamsters union, but police since have voted to dissolve the affiliation.

Teamsters Secretary-Treasurer Jesse Carr arrived at the port at about 5:45 p.m. to help calm the situation. Carr reportedly agreed to reduce the number of pickets at the port to 10 — five Teamsters and five longshoremen. That was the situation at about 7 p.m. Friday, with the pickets and a slightly larger number of police officers — some wearing helmets — co-existing peacefully.

Two vans left the port at that time, assaulted only by curses.

Carr said he had returned from an around-the-clock negotiating session at Clear Friday afternoon. He was napping when his wife awoke him while watching filmed accounts of the port confrontation.

After arriving at the scene, Carr said he called Police Chief Brian Porter "and told him our people were settled down and he could send some of his policemen home."

Police set up barricades about a half-mile from the port during the altercation and barred reporters from the area. Police spokesman George Novak said the action was taken because officers "couldn't ensure the safety of people in the area."

The access restriction was lifted at about 6:30 p.m., but reinstated little more than an hour later. An officer at that time said Carr, the Teamster chief, had suggested "we be here so the guys wouldn't hit the bars and decide to come back."

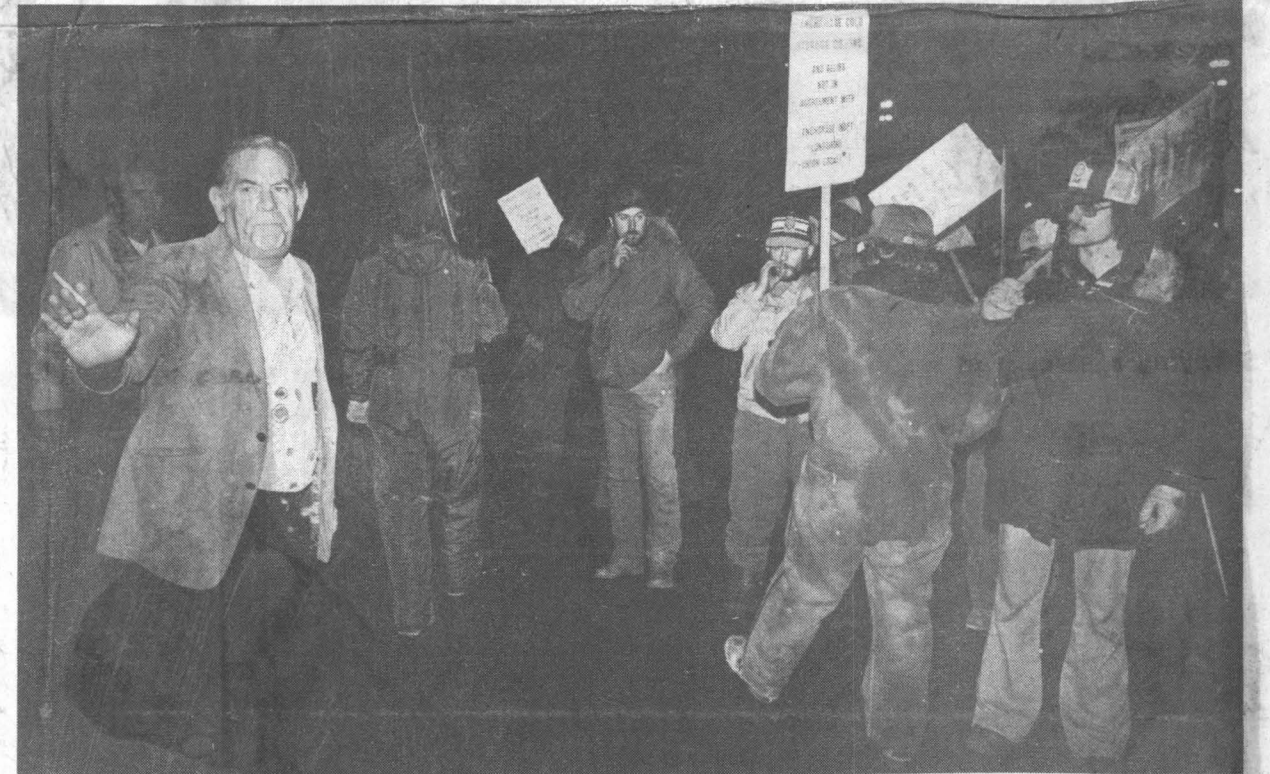
Police identified the eight men arrested as Frank B. Bruner, 22; Lyle D. Lewis, 52; James R. Armistead, 28; Steve Kowalski, 26; Miles M. Davis, 51; Ed Roserio, 27; Danny Bryant, 31; and James A. Glenn, all of Anchorage.

Police said all are from Anchorage. They were released on their own recognizance after appearing before a magistrate.

Late Friday night, Bryant said "the cops had to do their job," but took strong issue with the methods they used.

"I didn't realize that we'd gone so far that they had to do that. I don't think we had gone that far," said Bryant, a Teamster longshoreman. "I couldn't believe the storm tactics of the policemen... They just kept pushin' us and pushin' us and pushin' us."

He said he had no regrets



Jesse Carr herds Teamster pickets out of the roadway at the Anchorage port Friday night.

about being arrested. "I had to stand up for my rights, for my job."

About 35 longshore pickets and a handful of police who keep the pickets about 100 yards from the dock were on hand when two tugs guided the chartered barge into the port's terminal one at 7:30 a.m.

When the first Anchorage Cold Storage truck rolled toward the docks at 8:50 a.m., jeering pickets pounded it with their signs and grabbed at rear view mirrors, prompting the first of several warning lectures from police.

The harassment continued at a level then apparently acceptable to police.

While there were no serious altercations before mid-afternoon, many of the longshoremen obviously were angered by the non-union dock workers and drivers who rolled past the picket line and massive police protection that was in place by 10:30 a.m.

"They didn't have this many (cops) for the pope," muttered Bud Kowalski, the union business agent for Anchorage Independent Longshore Union Local 1, which is closely affiliated with Teamsters Local 959.

Longshoremen were also angry at the municipality for granting Anchorage Cold Storage a permit to use the dock.

In a moment of frustration, Kowalski said that Milt Odom, owner of the distributorship,

"bought this city lock, stock and barrel from Sullivan on down."

Warren Jackson, president of the longshoremen's local, said the union was never offered the job of unloading the barge.

Picketing longshoremen complained that the dock workers hired by Anchorage Cold Storage to unload the barge were violating federal, state and local safety laws by riding the straps of the crane between the dock and barge and not wearing hard hats.

Jackson, president of Anchorage Independent Longshore Union Local 1, was among the pickets at the port when the firehose was used.

He said the presence of the police — their numbers increased from about four officers very early in the morning to an estimated 25 to 30 officers at the time of the confrontation — made the situation worse.

"Their (the police) presence and mass force was uncalled for and I think it helped tempers flare up," Jackson said Friday night.

"The force from the beginning was way excessive of what it should have been. Anybody that wanted to rob a bank or rape somebody uptown would have had a field day today," Jackson said.

"My understanding is that all the equipment was pelted with rocks and other forms of

missiles," said Anchorage Cold Storage lawyer Douglas Riggs, noting that windshields on all four trucks were smashed along with some side windows.

The firm, using four trucks, succeeded in unloading 30 to 40 vans on Friday and plans call for unloading to continue through today, Riggs said.

"I assume that all those cabs on the tractors and to some extent, the vans themselves, would reflect the damage that would be incurred as the recipients of those missiles," said Riggs.

"It's obvious that we didn't. We were totally unarmed and totally complying with the order that Judge Shortell issued that we would not engage in any activity that would threaten or harass any of the Teamsters or its members," Riggs said.

"The whole situation was way out of hand. I don't think we've seen anything like this in Anchorage in its history — maybe in the state," he said.

Teamsters' lawyer Jim Witt also said he didn't know what spark ignited the unrest.

"Our position is that we didn't want it and when it occurred, we tried to defuse it as quickly as possible," Witt said. "I talked to them and I know Mr. Carr talked to them. As far as I understand, Mr. Carr escorted a group (of vans) through, himself, personally."



Teamster Bob Mabe, above, preaches his case to uninterested police officers. Right, another Teamster picket makes his point clear to a passing police officer.



Another Teamster picket makes his point clear to a passing police officer.



Pickets surround a truck leaving the port Friday morning.

Anchorage Daily News/Monte Paulsen