

Officials plan ahead for peaceful barge docking

By ANN CONY
Daily News reporter

With an Anchorage Cold Storage barge scheduled to arrive here next week, city officials are plotting strategy in an attempt to prevent disruption of port operations and a repeat of the violence that occurred when the company brought a barge into the port in October.

"In addition to studying police coverage, municipal officials are trying in advance to

solve logistical problems that could tie up Sea-Land and Totem Ocean Trailer Express operations at the port.

Anchorage longshoremen are affiliated with Teamsters Local 959, which has been on strike since June against Milt Odom's Anchorage Cold Storage, a food and beverage distributorship.

Odom will use a non-union crew to unload the barge, which is carrying supplies from Seattle.

Tyler Jones, assistant port director, said Monday that port officials expect the Odom barge to arrive next week, possibly on Tuesday.

"We would like to limit his time at the port as much as we can," Jones said.

John Franklin, public safety commissioner, has asked Anchorage Independent Longshore Union Local 1 to limit the number of pickets it sends to protest the non-union barge operation.

Franklin said he does not anticipate another riot but that police officials are studying the possibility of keeping pickets and other people well away from the port entrance, where longshoremen and police clashed in October.

"What I think will happen in the long run is that a whole bunch of attorneys will sit down representing the company and the municipality to work out an agreement."

Municipal officials hope

that work conflicts can be prevented by segregating Odom's non-union crew from the union longshoremen.

"We have devised a system of identifying (terminal) gates by numbers," Jones said. "One of those will be isolated as a contractor's gate and that will be used exclusively by Odom employees."

While that would allow longshoremen to pass through other gates to unload Sea-Land and Totem ships at the

same time the Anchorage Cold Storage barge is being unloaded, there are unconfirmed reports from the waterfront that longshoremen may refuse to work as long as the Odom barge is docked.

Thursday and Friday are the only days of the week that a Totem or Sea-Land ship does not use the dock.

Sea-Land and Totem have dock permits that give their ships preference over other carriers.

metro/state/business

Anchorage Daily News

Tuesday, May 4, 1982

c-1

Pickets likely for Anchorage Cold Storage barge

By ANN CONY
Daily News reporter

A barge carrying goods for Anchorage Cold Storage is expected to arrive in the Port of Anchorage late Wednesday or early Thursday, municipal officials said Monday.

The food and beverage distributorship last brought a barge into Anchorage six months ago, when a day of tension at the port ended with eight arrests after a brief riot involving city police and picketing longshoremen.

Anchorage Cold Storage has been the 10-month target

of a strike by Alaska Teamsters Local 959, and the company's leased barge is expected to be met by pickets again this week.

"I would assume we'd have some pickets, but like last time, it would be very few," Teamsters spokesman Dean Berg said Monday, referring to pickets representing striking Anchorage Cold Storage employees.

Most of the several dozen pickets that protested at the port last October were members of Anchorage Independent Longshore Union Local 1,

which Berg said he could not speak for, though the longshore local is affiliated with Teamsters Local 959.

Anchorage Cold Storage again will use non-union workers to unload its barge this week, as it did in October.

John Franklin, municipal public safety commissioner, has asked the longshore union to limit the number of pickets it sends to protest the non-union barge operation but has received no response from the head of Local 1, Bud Kowalski.

"We haven't made any commitments," Kowalski said.

"Right now, we don't have any formal indication that it will be a major confrontation," said Franklin.

Franklin said the number of police officers on hand at the port "will depend on what happens. I imagine somewhere between 50 and 75 (officers) would be tops."

An attorney for Anchorage Cold Storage said he had no advance plans to seek a court order prohibiting violence or limiting pickets this week.

"We don't really have any indication that they are going to do what they did last time," attorney Doug Riggs said of the pickets.

However, Riggs said the company certainly would seek a restraining order if violence or other disruptions hamper unloading of the barge.

Some 115 Teamsters walked off their jobs at Anchorage Cold Storage June 29 after negotiations on labor contract renewals reached an impasse over numerous issues.

Shortly after the strike began, the union placed pickets on the docks in Seattle, causing Sea-Land Service Co. and Totem Ocean Trailer Express to refuse to handle the distributor's freight.

The company then resorted to barge service, bringing most of its freight into Seaward.

Anchorage Cold Storage succeeded last fall in getting a permit to use the municipal dock, which broke long-standing tradition that gave all longshore work to members of the longshoremen's union.

News Wednesday, May 5, 1982

Cold Storage barge delayed until Friday

A barge delivering goods for strike-bound Anchorage Cold Storage will not arrive here until noon Friday, the company told port officials late Tuesday afternoon.

The barge had been expected to arrive Wednesday night or Thursday morning.

Company officials could not be reached to comment on the cause of the delay.

Teamsters Local 959 has been on strike against the food and beverage distributorship for more than 10 months.

Teamsters and Anchorage Independent Longshore Union Local 1, which is affiliated with the Teamsters, are expected to picket the barge,

which will be unloaded by non-union workers.

A delayed arrival could cause havoc for Sea-Land Service Co., which has a container ship due in at the port Saturday, because union longshoremen may refuse to work as long as the barge leased by Anchorage Cold Storage is at the municipal dock.

Unloading of the barge is expected to take a minimum of two days.

Bud Kowalski, business agent for the longshore union, declined this week to say whether longshoremen would work the docks while the barge is tied up here.

"We haven't gotten to that point yet," he said.

The Anchorage Times, Thursday, May 6, 1982

Officials prepare for barge arrival

by Mary Pat Murphy
Times Writer

Anchorage police and port officials are hoping the arrival of an Anchorage Cold Storage barge Friday won't spark a repeat of violence last October that led to the arrest of a number of picketers who clashed with police.

Unloading of an Anchorage Cold Storage barge by non-union workers caused a stormy confrontation between police and picketing longshoremen.

The longshoremen are affiliated with Teamsters Local 959, which has been on strike against Anchorage Cold Storage since last June.

"We expect problems, but we don't expect major problems," Tyler Jones, assistant port director, said today.

Jones said one of the port's seven gates has been designated for exclusive use by Anchorage Cold Storage while the barge is being unloaded.

Anchorage Cold Storage owner

Milt Odom will use a non-union crew to unload the barge, which is carrying supplies from Seattle.

Jones said port officials hope picketing will be restricted to the gate being used by Odom, allowing other port operations to continue without disruption.

The barge is expected to arrive by noon Friday, Jones said.

Anchorage Police Sgt. George Novaky said police will monitor the situation at the port and "handle matters as necessity requires."

Novaky said it is the police department's "fervent hope" that if there is picketing at the port, the pickets "will conduct themselves in a lawful manner."

All available personnel are being used to investigate the murders of four young people at Russian Jack Springs Park Monday night, Novaky said, and police don't want to pull officers off that investigation to quell disturbances at the port.

The Anchorage Times, Sunday, April 4, 1982

Hearing set on Ship Creek boat harbor

Plans for a \$41.6 million, 220-berth small boat harbor at Ship Creek will be reviewed during a public meeting 7:30 p.m. Monday in the Downtown Recreation Center.

The 78-acre harbor would be built on the south side of Ship Creek and would extend into Knik Arm from the south of the creek. About 4.1 acres would be reserved for dry boat storage, Anchorage port officials stated.

The project would include a landfill to the east of the basin containing restaurants, and marine supply and retail stores.

To the north, 13.4 acres of the property would be developed as a commercial and industrial area. A masterplan for the area shows it would support barge operations, warehousing, seafood processing, industrial facilities and offices.

The project's masterplan was developed by Tectonics, Inc. for use by the city's building contractor York Steel Company. York Steel holds a lease to the tidelands at the proposed boat harbor site and has been issued a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit, said port officials.

York Steel Company last year contracted with the city to develop the plan and to do preliminary engineering studies.

Other elements of the plan include:

— An \$18 million large floating dock and breakwater for cruise ships and large fishing vessels to be anchored at the western edge of the harbor.

The dock would extend about 1,000 feet farther into Knik Arm than the Port of Anchorage dock. The 1,050 by 100-foot dock also is expected to reduce the effect of wave action inside the small boat harbor, officials said.

— A strip of land along the southern edge of the harbor would be developed as a park, with picnic areas and bike trails. Eventually it might be tied in with the city's proposed coastal trail.

Copies of the master plan are available at the port, the city's transportation department, the municipal clerk and at all branch libraries.

Anchorage Daily News Saturday, May 8, 1982



Protest at the port

Pickets with the Teamsters and longshoremen's unions wave signs at a passing truck loaded with cargo bound for Anchorage Cold Storage Friday morning. The cargo was on a barge that docked at the port Thursday night and although pickets remained on the scene, their protest was peaceful. Story, The Back Page.

Anchorage Daily News/Jim Lavrakas