

## FILE COPY ILWU LIBRARY

# I.L.W.U. Commonwealth Call Seen Only 'Temporary' Move

The I.L.W.U., in calling for a commonwealth status for Hawaii in a policy statement by its international executive board Tuesday, didn't defect from the ranks of Statehood supporters, a spokesman for the Hawaii local said today.

A union spokesman in San Francisco also said the board's action did not mean the union was abandoning the fight for Statehood but rather considered commonwealth status a temporary solution, the United Press reported.

Harry Bridges, I.L.W.U. president, told the board that Hawaii Statehood was doomed so long as there was such strong opposition from "certain" Southern senators who "fear Hawaii might elect a non-white senator or congressman."

### I.L.W.U. A FACTOR

He also said the unnamed Southern senators were "open and frank" with their admission that they would oppose Statehood so long as the I.L.W.U. operated in the Islands.

"But I can assure we'll never get out," Bridges said.

Regarding the union's plea for a commonwealth status, John A. Burns, Democratic candidate for Delegate to Congress, said:

"I can understand their feeling the way they do. However, I do not feel commonwealth is attainable or practical under the existing circumstances.

"It would be as much trouble to get commonwealth as it would be to get Statehood and for anyone to think Congress would give up the at least \$150,000,000 annually in tax revenues is expecting too much.

### CITES DEMOCRATS

"I believe the position of the Democratic Party as taken in convention provides the answer to Hawaii obtaining a greater measure of self government and is the only effective answer to the problem," Burns said.

Jack W. Hall, regional director of Local 142, said the local is still backing Statehood but he has felt for a long

time "Statehood is a dream. Anything that will save us money, we should be for."

The text of the executive board's policy statement on commonwealth follows:

"The popular demand for Statehood for Hawaii has always stemmed from the traditional American objectives of equality of citizenship status and of no taxation without representation.

"The people of Hawaii cannot elect their own governor. Yet they pay their full share of Federal taxes.

"They are tired of second-class citizenship. We agree with the statement in the resolution on 'Statehood for Hawaii' adopted by the second annual convention of Local 142 last September, 'we . . . deem it a shame and a disgrace that years continue to pass without the granting of Statehood . . .' and, with Local 142, we 'condemn the arrogant racial prejudice' of certain Southern Congressmen who have been principally responsible for blocking Statehood."

### STATEHOOD 'REMOTE'

"Since Statehood seems remote of early achievement we urge some form of commonwealth status as a step in bringing the people of Hawaii to full citizenship, as one means of stimulating the economy.

"Commonwealth status, already achieved in Puerto Rico, if demanded on a broad and united basis, can hardly be denied the Territory.

"As a commonwealth, Hawaii could elect its own Governor, could enjoy greater autonomy in the conduct of its local affairs and would be free of Federal taxation.

"Close to \$150 million that now comes out of the pockets of the people and the corporations of Hawaii would stay in the Islands for the purchases of goods and services.

"Keeping tax money in the Islands is only one plank in a program necessary to increase job opportunities and to minimize recurrent unemployment."