

GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY FOOD COMMITTEE
1949

On May 1, 1949, the I.L.W.U. went on strike for higher wages and waterfront activities came to a standstill. Fearful of a food shortage, Governor Ingram M. Stainback issued an executive order on May 25, creating the Emergency Food Committee and appointed Judge Gerald R. Corbett, chairman.

Initially, the duties of the committee were to investigate reports of shortages in food supplies and essential commodities and to find means of meeting the needs of the civilian population and making such recommendations thereon to the Governor. On June 10, Governor Stainback further defined its authority with another executive order. The committee was given the duty of designating those commodities which would be essential to meet the emergency needs of the civilian population and to allocate the tonnage between all known importers of that commodity.

Some of the major tasks undertaken by the group included: 1) a study of necessary food supplies on hand during the early part of the emergency period and estimates of monthly requirements of those essential commodities; 2) arranging for shipping space on Armed Forces and commercial vessels; 3) designating commodities and importers; and 4) participating in arrangements which culminated in the designation of the Matson vessel, the HAWAIIAN REFINER, as a relief ship.

The supplementary duties of the committee were suspended on August 17, 1949, when the Territorial Government took control of the ports through special legislation and proclamation by the Governor. The committee's duties came to consist only of recommending action on certain commodities and no longer entailed designating emergency goods and allocating shipping space and consignees. Thus their activities had dwindled considerably by the time the strike officially ended on October 23, 1949 (177 days).

In the Governor's Emergency Food Committee's final report to Governor Stainback, dated November 21, it was recommended that the members be relieved of their duties and that the committee be dissolved.

Boxes OGOV12-1 The records are grouped under three major headings: Master correspondence and file, requests for Navy shipping space and newspaper clippings.
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See also Governor Ingram M. Stainback's file: Miscellaneous - Labor - I.L.W.U. waterfront Strike - Governor's Emergency Food Committee; Subject Index - Strikes, Shipping.

Name Index - Corbett, Gerald R.