

BC Strike Ties Goods

The British Columbia Longshoremen's Strike is tying up 81 rail cars with products for Alaska. Governor Jay Hammond has asked the Canadian Area President of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union to allow the rail cars to be loaded aboard the SS Alaska for transport to Whittier.

The cars contain consumer items bound for Interior Alaska communities and material for the trans-Alaska pipeline.

In a telegram to Longshoremen's President Don Garcia, Hammond said, "Scarce fresh produce and poultry items have been backtracked and flown to Alaska at greater cost to residents in areas where the cost of living is the highest in North America. Pipeline material is

needed to maintain the critical schedule for completion of the project.

"I have been informed that bulk cargo handling is still a subject of negotiations. Insofar as the rail cars do not involve container handling, it is my hope you will facilitate their transfer to the SS Alaska for sailing."

In a similar telegram to Chris Browne, chairman of the Fraser River Harbor Commission in New Westminster, Canada, Hammond said, "It is my understanding that the rail cars are not the subject of the labor-management differences concerning bulk cargo handling at the port."

The Governor said if Browne were able "to do anything to assist Alaska from being inadvertently hurt by further delay of the rail cars, I assure you my Administration would be grateful for your assistance."