

OTWENTY FIVE
MAY 20 1974

Island Protection Bill Out Of Committee

By John E. Simonds
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — The Senate Commerce Committee, responding to the pleas of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, Thursday reported out legislation aimed at protecting Hawaii and other U.S. islands in the Pacific from the effects of West Coast dock and shipping strikes.

The move by the committee failed, however, to provide a resolution to the conflict over jurisdiction on the bill between the Commerce Committee and the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

Under terms of Thursday's action, the bill would go to the Labor Committee for a maximum of 40 days. If that committee, headed by Sen. Harrison A.

Williams, D-New Jersey, does not act on the measure by then, it automatically would take its place on the Senate calendar.

The bill would go to Williams' committee only if no member of the Senate objects, since the action requires unanimous consent. If a senator objects, the bill would go on the Senate calendar for floor action.

Inouye, a member of the Commerce Committee, seemed pleased with the vote as he left the closed session. The bill has been idling in committee since hearings on it last June.

Chairman Warren G. Magnuson, D-Washington, a strong ally of maritime unions, voted against Thursday's move, as did Sen. John V. Tunney, D-California.

The official committee tally on the bill was not immediately available.

The bill, sponsored by Inouye with the support of the rest of the Hawaii delegation, would exempt Hawaii, Guam and the Pacific island territories from the first 160 days of any maritime work stoppage on the mainland West Coast.

Two weeks ago, Inouye wrote Magnuson a four page letter asking for committee action on the bill to help his "acutely vulnerable" state.

Magnuson declined to bring the bill up for a full committee vote after he received a letter last summer from Williams claiming jurisdiction over the bill through the labor committee.

"I am pleased that after these many months of waiting, this important bill will be considered by the full Senate," Inouye said. "I believe that the Hawaii and U.S.

Pacific Islands Surface Commerce Act of 1973 will be debated and voted upon by the full Senate in about two months."

Inouye said the importance of Thursday's committee action is getting the legislation moving again.

"All we want to do is to get it on that calendar," he said. Even if the bill goes to the Labor Committee for 40 days, Inouye said he doubts Williams or any other members could do anything to damage the measure permanently. Any drastic changes probably could be overcome on the floor, Inouye said.

In spite of heavy pro-labor sympathy in the Labor Committee, Inouye said he thinks there is a majority for reporting the bill to the floor during the 40 days.

"I don't think they have the votes to kill it," he said. "About all they could do would be to filibuster on the floor."