

Secretary WIRTZ. The third suggestion is that there be an identification of the cost of the various proposals, as I understand it, before the parties in mediation.

I would be reluctant at this point, without some identification from the committee and the Congressmen as to what proposals you are talking about that to provide that because I don't want to compromise the bargaining.

I will be glad to give you cost figures on whatever proposals you specify.

Mr. DINGELL. We would be pleased to accept your judgment. I believe you would be fully competent to identify these according to their roles.

Secretary WIRTZ. Not a matter of competence. I would hope discretion, Mr. Dingell. I would suggest that we give you for that purpose apprising of the emergency board recommendations so far as that is possible, the mediation panels proposal so far as that is possible, and those are the only ones which I think mediation discretion would permit at this point.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Secretary, this legislation imposes what upon the two parties? In the case of the brotherhoods, it compels them to go back to work; am I correct?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes, sir.

Mr. DINGELL. And it compels them to work at wages with which they do not agree; am I correct?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes; I think you are. I simply point out that the assumption is that whatever agreement or determination is made in this case would be retroactive.

Mr. DINGELL. What equally burdensome requirement does this legislation impose upon the carriers?

Secretary WIRTZ. As far as the present prospect is concerned?

Mr. DINGELL. As far as the men going back to work. The carriers continue to operate, they continue to be regulated, they continue to receive rates which are fixed by the Interstate Commerce Commission which are compensatory to them; is that correct?

Secretary WIRTZ. I should make clear that the case originates with the serving of a number of notices by both sides so that the effect of the action is to require them both to operate on the basis which both of them object to.

The effect of the legislation is that, absent agreement, in the end they will both be bound by the determination which is entered into as a result of the collective-bargaining process. I think it cuts exactly the same both ways.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Secretary, it is, however, provable that the railroads, if they find that they are operating on the basis of the recommendations of the panel at a noncompensatory rate, can then proceed to the ICC and receive rate increases to make the impact of the findings much more satisfactory from their point of view. Isn't that a fact?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes. I answer that subject, of course, to a—

Mr. DINGELL. Now, will you—

Secretary WIRTZ. I do not answer it without qualification which would compromise the ICC. I only want to include in my answer a