

I think it to be in Australia, and as it was during the war in this country.

Mr. ROGERS. Do you feel that this is temporary legislation?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROGERS. Is there any reason you see why the Congress should not, in its consideration of this matter, go ahead on its own volition to consider permanent legislation to meet these national problems that arise?

Secretary WIRTZ. Your question is, if I see any reason why it should not consider that?

Mr. ROGERS. Yes.

Secretary WIRTZ. I see no reason why it should not consider it. You will note from what I have said, my present testimony, if called upon, would be in opposition to that. But the situation is certainly such that that is a proper subject of consideration.

Mr. ROGERS. Could we expect cooperation from the administration with the committee in considering these matters of a permanent solution?

Secretary WIRTZ. Complete cooperation. But I don't want to diminish the course that I feel in my own mind on the subject. I am at the present point strongly opposed to that. But you would get the fullest cooperation in connection with its consideration.

Mr. ROGERS. What I am thinking is this: I understand that the administration has come to no position on this so far as a solution. Suppose this committee could arrive at a conclusion. This does not mean that you would necessarily oppose it until you see what the proposals would be.

Secretary WIRTZ. That is correct, and a proper criticism of the statement I just made. I went too far. I shouldn't say I would oppose anything along that line, or everything along that line.

Mr. ROGERS. Would there be any reason why this legislation should not be permanent and apply to all situations affecting the national interest?

Secretary WIRTZ. That was really the question I was answering. I would like to clarify my answer of before. I do not mean to suggest that I would automatically be opposed to any proposal for dealing with this matter over the longer run. I would not take that position.

I was replying in terms of this particular proposal. I would not be prepared at this point—putting it the other way, I would at this point oppose the establishment of a general law cast in these terms, because I think that here you have a special situation, and this legislation is designed to meet the facts in this particular case, and, therefore, would not be applicable as a general law because it is so closely tied in with the bargaining, the mediation, in this case.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you.

Mr. FRIEDEL. Mr. Cunningham.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Secretary, this question I am about to propose to you is not about anything I have made up my mind on, I am seeking information only.

What if this committee would table this legislation and take no action and then a strike does result? Is there any legislation that empowers the President to do anything at that point?