

Secretary WIRTZ. Let me be sure I understand the question. You are assuming the enactment of this resolution?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. No; say that we table this resolution and take no action and the strike ensues. Then is there anything at all legislative-wise or any power the President has to deal with the situation after the strike takes place?

Secretary WIRTZ. There is up to the 19th of June because of the extension of last week, and after that there is nothing at all.

Let me answer more precisely in terms of your question. There would be no authority for the President at that point to do anything.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I want also to go over what another member asked about, a long-range solution to these sorts of strikes.

I know we cannot presume what the President had in mind when he delivered his State of the Union message a year ago.

I believe in response to that question, however, you stated—and correct me if I am wrong—that such legislation is under active consideration. I don't know exactly what that means.

Is there a study continually going on in this particular field?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes. It has been the subject of extensive discussion at the Cabinet and sub-Cabinet level over a rather extended period. There has also now been a considerable amount of public notice of the fact that the President appointed a task force some 6 or 7 months ago made up of people outside the Government to consider this matter, that made some recommendations to him.

The matter is, beyond that, the subject of continuing consideration as these problems arise. My answer to Mr. Rogers would have been very misleading if I hadn't corrected it. My answer was that I would oppose the making of this as permanent legislation. But we are actively considering the question of what should be done about the broader matter.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. That was really what I was trying to get at.

Of course, you are the experts, and the people in the Labor Department are the experts, in this field. The career people in your Department, are they, too, thinking this over and contributing to it?

Secretary WIRTZ. It is not a matter of false modesty. We all know that we become the victims of our own habits. We are working with the parties as mediators. We are affected by that judgment, and so on and so forth.

So there has been every effort on the President's part, and I think very properly, to enlist the widest variety of opinion and reaction with respect to this matter.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I can assume that with the special panel, and your people, those responsible for such legislation if it should be developed, that they have studies and consultations going on and it is under active consideration.

Secretary WIRTZ. Just last week the American Bar Association had a 2-day session, I believe, here in Washington at which they had an extremely competent group of people come in and speak to this subject. We are looking at their statements with great interest.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I don't believe there are any more competent people than you and your Department.

Secretary WIRTZ. We get too close to it, for one thing.