

Has not the solution of this particular dispute been aggravated by the fact that some 74 percent of the railway employees have already agreed to the terms for a new contract, and should the demands of the disputed unions be agreed to or acquiesced to, it would have adverse repercussions to some 75 percent of the other employees?

Secretary WIRTZ. My answer would have to be a little cautious on that. You say "aggravated." I would take a more neutral word. It has been affected by the settlements made in the rest of the industry. That works both ways, of course.

Let me say, and I hope I don't avoid your question in my answer, that it is first the fact that there has been the settlement in the rest of the industry. It is, second, a fact that that has had an effect on the bargaining here.

Mr. WATSON. Mr. Secretary, earlier my friend from Michigan questioned you concerning whether or not the carriers or management supported this particular resolution. I am sure you would rather have us get their positions from them rather than from you, for the record.

But by way of background, what has been the attitude or reaction of management concerning the recommendations of the Mediation Board, the recommendations of the Emergency Board, and those of the Special Board?

Have they been so intransigent as you have implied? I would like to get this in proper perspective.

Secretary WIRTZ. The problem, I think, to which you refer, or the point, has come up at three stages in this proceeding. The problem probably came up first in connection with the proffer by the National Mediation Board of voluntary arbitration. That was accepted by the carriers and was rejected by the unions.

It came up next in connection with the recommendations of Emergency Board No. 169. At that point the carriers accepted the recommendation and the unions did not.

It came up then in connection with the proposals of the Special Mediation Panel on April 21. In that situation neither party accepted the recommendations.

That is where the record stands as of now.

Mr. WATSON. I have one further question concerning the Special Board that would be established should this resolution be passed. You say the five who are members would be generally recognized as public representatives, and you say the President will look toward labor for one and management for one of the five.

Secretary WIRTZ. That is correct.

Mr. WATSON. Would those appointees be restricted to labor and management involved in this dispute, namely, the railroads, or will it come from management in general, and labor in general, not related to this dispute?

Secretary WIRTZ. There is no indication in the President's message with respect to that point, nor do I know.

Mr. WATSON. Do you believe that the chances of collective bargaining working even at this late juncture would be enhanced by having these parties from the railroads and the labor organizations involved, or from nonrailroad or nontransportation appointments?