

RAILROAD LABOR DISPUTE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to notice, in room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Harley O. Staggers (chairman) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

Today the committee resumes its hearings on House Joint Resolution 559, to provide for the settlement of the labor dispute between certain of the railroad carriers and certain of their employees.

We have today as the first witness the Honorable Alan S. Boyd, Secretary of the Department of Transportation.

STATEMENT OF HON. ALAN S. BOYD, SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION; ACCOMPANIED BY SCOTT HARVEY, LABOR ECONOMIST, OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORTATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The CHAIRMAN. I have two letters, one from the Secretary of Transportation and one from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, both of them in the same vein and both of them addressed to me. I want to ask the Secretary first about the letter that I received from him yesterday, on the day before he would testify here. I want to know why he would send me a letter about his testimony and release it to the press, so that the press would actually ask me several questions about this. Why didn't he wait until today when he would be here to testify at the regular time before the committee.

Can the Secretary answer this?

Secretary Boyd. Yes, I would be delighted to.

The letter was in response to a statement made by the chairman on the floor, I believe, expressing the view that there may well not be any emergency involved. I am paraphrasing.

The CHAIRMAN. You couldn't wait until today to do that?

Secretary Boyd. Yes, sir, I—

The CHAIRMAN. You had to write a letter and give it to the press yesterday. I didn't make the statement on the floor. If you knew what was going on, I made it right here yesterday. I didn't make it on the floor. You could have waited until today when you knew you were coming to testify.

Secretary Boyd. Yes, sir, I certainly could have.

It was my impression, Mr. Chairman, that I was doing the proper thing in expressing my views.