

The CHAIRMAN. I might ask who you consulted with in this that you would go ahead and answer this before you came up here today.

Secretary BOYD. I am my own adviser.

The CHAIRMAN. You are your own adviser?

Secretary BOYD. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. And you did this on your own, you say, just to release this?

Secretary BOYD. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think this is ethical?

Secretary BOYD. Certainly, there is no question of ethics involved here to my mind, Mr. Chairman. Had I thought there was anything unethical involved in this, I would, I assure you, not have transmitted anything to you.

The CHAIRMAN. I think you would have been far better off if you had done just that and waited until today to state your opinion before this committee without sending a letter, and without telling me, release it to the press of the Nation.

Secretary BOYD. If that is the case, I must apologize. My information is that the letter was delivered to you before it went to anybody else, before copies were made available.

The CHAIRMAN. That it was delivered to me personally?

Secretary BOYD. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Secretary, whoever your adviser is, he is completely wrong. It was not delivered to me personally, ever. It was delivered to my office. You may have thought it was delivered to me personally. But it was not. I have other duties, too.

Secretary BOYD. I appreciate that.

The CHAIRMAN. I don't think you do. When you hear these matters from other sources, there is something wrong when we have to go to the press without waiting until the time to come before this committee, in proper order, to give your views.

Secretary BOYD. I certainly want to apologize for the failure of the letter to reach you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I think you should have at least ascertained that it had been delivered and brought to my attention, without leaving us to go to the press to get our information.

You may proceed with your testimony.

Secretary BOYD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am here today as a witness for the public interest as expressed in the House Joint Resolution 559. I am not here to support or condemn either labor or management in the current railroad dispute. I am not here as an experienced expert in the very complex area of labor-management relations. Judgment on such questions I leave to others within the administration.

The President has had the benefit of the advice and counsel of a large number of such experts. I will defer to them in expressing the administration's opinion on the implications of this resolution in terms of collective bargaining.

When I was confirmed by the Senate for the post I now hold, I made it clear that in transportation labor-management disputes of a national nature, just as in major transportation cases coming before regulatory agencies, the Department of Transportation would vigorously represent the public interest. In my opinion, the American public