

The joint resolution would permit, and, indeed, contribute to such a solution. Considerable progress during the long course of bargaining has narrowed the difference between the parties. The remaining difference should not be permitted to produce a work stoppage of the magnitude involved here.

I support the joint resolution as a fair and equitable solution to the difficult situation which has developed in this dispute.

I would further hope that the parties would be able to resolve their differences between themselves within the procedures established by the resolution.

Finally, I think it is essential to take full cognizance of the efforts that have led up to the presentation of this proposal. The best brains and talent in this country, from labor, management, and the Government, have exhaustively researched and weighed every conceivable alternative given full consideration. The extent of support for these alternatives has been determined.

The negotiations that have already taken place and have already produced substantial agreement on a number of issues have, of course, been considered and must be utilized in any final settlement.

The joint resolution you are considering takes all this into account and makes maximum use of any and all advantages attached to the present situation.

The administration feels that there is no other feasible alternative which protects and assures the interest of the public as well as the interests of labor and management.

Speaking for the public interest, especially as it relates to our total transportation system, I heartily concur and urge the swift passage of this resolution.

Mr. Chairman, that completes my statement.

I am accompanied by Mr. Scott Harvey, a labor economist, in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development in the Department of Transportation.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I want to thank you for your statement. It states your views very clearly and that of your Department.

In the light of your last statement, since you urge the passage of the resolution. I am sure you would agree that if this committee sees fit in their wisdom to alter that resolution after they have heard all sides, that could coincide with your thinking on the democratic form of government, would it not?

Secretary BOYD. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You mentioned about the different things that had been agreed upon, without mentioning them specifically.

Do you know what the differences are between the unions and the railroads now?

Secretary BOYD. I will give you my understanding of the differences. One is on duration of contract, one is on level of general wage increase, and one is on level of the so-called inequity relationship between skilled and unskilled labor within the railroad industry and between the railroad industry and other industries having similar skills.

The CHAIRMAN. It may not be fair to ask you this question, but the last one you mentioned, the inequities between the skilled workers in