

The CHAIRMAN. Would you state those again and then I will finish my question?

Secretary BOYD. Sir?

The CHAIRMAN. Would you state your understanding of the Fahy Panel proposals again?

Secretary BOYD. A contract of 18 months' duration with an across-the-board 6 percent increase, with a three-step so-called equity increase to those who qualified as the skilled workers, which I think represents about 100,000 of the 137,000. That would be 5 cents on April 1, 1967; 5 cents on October 1, 1967; and 5 cents on April 1, 1968.

The CHAIRMAN. Those are all the questions I have. I would like to say this, that I believe when we get these two groups here that there is a really misunderstanding that has been bandied about in the public.

I don't believe they have met face-to-face recently. Do you know whether there is collective bargaining now?

Secretary BOYD. No, sir, I do not know.

The CHAIRMAN. I believe if we had both of them in here for an understanding, I believe perhaps both of them would offer to settle on a common basis.

Secretary BOYD. I would certainly hope so. From my knowledge of the individuals involved, I am convinced that both sides are composed of and represented by very responsible American citizens, and I am confident that they will, in the final analysis, accept the realization which I think they must, that the public interest is a vital interest in their own negotiations and that they cannot turn their back on the public interest, which would lead them, in my judgment, to a successful conclusion under collective bargaining.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Macdonald.

Mr. MACDONALD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary, I take it in general you are appearing just on behalf of the public interest, is that right?

Secretary BOYD. To discuss impact. That is the only area in which I feel I have any basis for testifying.

Mr. MACDONALD. On page 2 of your testimony, you discuss public interest going beyond inconvenience and talking about the Nation's involvement in Vietnam, the defense effort, and so forth. And the providing of essential commodities to our cities.

I was wondering if you were aware of a message by way of Western Union sent to Mr. McNamara, the Secretary of Defense, by the AFL-CIO Railway Employees Department and by the Railway Labor Association, in which they straightforwardly said to him—

In view of the scheduled national strike by railroad shopcraft unions at 12:01, May 3, we stand ready to meet with you at any time to arrange continued rail transport of all shipments necessary to our Nation's military effort.

I would guess that would certainly mean Vietnam.

And then it refers to the public health—

This offer is made on behalf of the shopcraft unions and other railroad unions; cooperation on the part of the railroad managements would also be needed.

This is signed by the president of the AFL-CIO Railway Employees Department and by the Railway Executive Association chairman.