

I have no reason to question good faith in this statement. Do you?
Secretary BOYD. No, sir.

Mr. MACDONALD. If you don't, then why all this talk about the Nation's defense, its capability for defense and providing essential services to our cities?

Secretary BOYD. I tried to explain in my testimony what I was talking about, Mr. Macdonald. First of all, I would like to suggest that this question be raised with Defense witnesses. I have been advised by the Defense personnel that the same commitment was made at the time of the Firemen's strike in 1966, and that from the standpoint of Defense this was an unmitigated disaster, not because of lack of good faith or good will on the part of anybody, but because of the terribly complicated situation of trying to figure what was essential and what was not essential, and trying to switch cars out of trains and things of that nature as a mechanical proposition.

Mr. MACDONALD. I can see that it would raise some difficulty, but don't you think that it raises a difficulty to force people to go back to work against their will when they have the right to strike under our Constitution?

Secretary BOYD. I think it raises great difficulties. I think that is why we are here.

Mr. MACDONALD. Of course that is why we are here. But you don't talk about that. You talk about public interest. I say that if this offer can be concretely followed by a factual demonstration of their ability to do this, then the public interest would not be affected.

I ask for your comment about that. Am I naive? Am I wrong? The reason I didn't ask Defense is that Defense might say that they have technical reasons. But you are not here on technical reasons.

You stated at the outset you are here representing the public interest.

Secretary BOYD. I am here stating what I think is the public interest.

I would say, Mr. Macdonald, if I may elaborate—

Mr. MACDONALD. Could I finish a question?

Secretary BOYD. Excuse me. I was trying to answer your last question.

Mr. MACDONALD. Don't you think our Government owes a duty to the workers of this country, the right to attempt to do what they say they can do before they are forced to go back to work against their will?

Secretary BOYD. All I am trying to outline in my testimony, Mr. Macdonald, is what I think the impact of a strike would be.

You talk about essential commodities. I don't know your definition of essential commodities. I do not know the Brotherhoods' definition of essential commodities. If we are talking about the movement of fruits and vegetables as essential commodities, if we are talking about the movement of chlorine for water purification as essential commodities, if we are talking about the movement of coal to central power stations as essential commodities, if we are talking about the whole gamut which goes into the defense production industries—that is to say the raw materials which come into the factory and which are then manufactured into finished defense products—I would say it seems