

that far in order to say that a strike is something that has a major detrimental impact, a particular strike, on the economy and welfare of the United States.

Mr. Moss. You have indicated on page 8 during the Presidentially declared emergency the Department of Transportation could, by executive order, be charged with coordinating the movement of essential commodities.

Congressman Macdonald has read into the record a telegram offering to move, in effect, essential commodities on the part of the brotherhoods. Has anyone in your Department, or to your knowledge has anyone in the administration, attempted to arrange agreements to define a definition as to the commodities which would be covered in the event of a strike?

Secretary Boyd. No, sir. My reference to the movement of essential commodities in this sentence on page 8 refers to the definitions or judgments by the user agencies of the Government. I do not know, but it is my understanding that each user agency, consumer agency, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, et cetera, does have some basis for calculating its essential commodities to be moved.

Mr. Moss. But should we not, with the offer now pending, with the fate of this legislation undecided, as a matter of prudence, attempt to establish liaison with the spokesmen for the brotherhoods and the carriers in order to define the types of commodities which could be moved under that offer? How can you make an assessment of impact without first attempting to arrive at those definitions?

Secretary Boyd. I think that would be a very wise thing to do. This, so far as I can see, is a matter for the user agencies to work out. The activities of the Department of Transportation are strictly related to the movement of priority items among those calculated by the various user agencies to be essential.

Mr. Moss. Shouldn't someone within the administration take the initiative to coordinate such an undertaking?

Secretary Boyd. I think it would be a very worthwhile thing.

Mr. MACDONALD. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. Keith?

Mr. KEITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I appreciate, Mr. Secretary, that you have only been on the job for 5 weeks, but all of us have been concerned with this problem as we watched it develop in recent years. We have relied to some extent upon the President's statement that some long-range solution must be found and that he would propose such a solution to Congress.

Have you been a part of any effort to find a more permanent solution instead of these piecemeal approaches?

Secretary Boyd. I have been involved in two meetings in this area, Mr. Keith. As a result of those two meetings, where I obviously didn't make much of a contribution, I have been made aware of the efforts which have gone on within the administration to attempt to devise the kind of legislation the president mentioned in his state of the Union message, and some knowledge of the very substantial number of people who have been involved in these efforts and who have not, to my knowledge, yet come forth with something which they feel is a satisfactory, long-term, permanent resolution.