

Mr. BROWN. My question is: If this were not totally involving all the rail lines in the country, would it be less of a national emergency, and is there a possibility that you could eliminate the lack of settlement pressures by doing this?

In other words, would you increase competitive pressures on the rail industry to settle?

Secretary BOYD. On the basis of selective strikes rather than nationwide? I don't know the answer to that.

Mr. BROWN. You have no opinion?

Secretary BOYD. I have no opinion. I do have an opinion, if you have less than a national strike. Then you have less of an impact.

Mr. BROWN. That is what I am talking about. Would you give me your opinion, please?

Secretary BOYD. I am trying to answer you. If you have less of a national strike, you have less of an impact than you do with a national strike.

Mr. BROWN. And there would be greater competitive pressure to settle that strike?

Secretary BOYD. On that I have no knowledge.

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

Mr. DINGELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to refer, if I may, Mr. Secretary, to the telegram that was discussed by and between yourself and Mr. Macdonald.

I would like to know if there has been any action taken in the administration to scrutinize the contents of that telegram, to ascertain whether or not some movement of essential goods during a railroad strike has been studied by the administration, whether there are plans to utilize discussions toward this end as an alternative to the legislation presently before this committee.

Secretary BOYD. I have no knowledge as to any action being taken by the administration in relation to this telegram. This telegram, as I understand it, was directed to the Secretary of Defense. I have been sitting in this chair since I was advised of the telegram. I have not had any contact with the administration.

Mr. DINGELL. As Secretary of Transportation, it would appear that you would have some concern with the contents of that telegram.

It would also appear to me that a telegram similar to this should have been sent to you and to the Secretary of Labor. If such telegram were sent to you, would you think it would be incumbent on the administration to look at this as an alternative to the legislation before the committee?

Secretary BOYD. I don't see it as an alternative in any way, shape or form, Mr. Dingell.

Mr. DINGELL. If it moves essential goods and services, both from the standpoint of the Nation's health and welfare, and insofar as national defense is concerned, it is conceivable that, within the framework of that language, something might be worked out that might generally serve the national interest and still not involve the kind of incursion we have in collective bargaining as seen in the legislation before this committee; am I correct?

Secretary BOYD. I think there is a national interest which goes beyond essential defense and public health.