

So there would be hearings, there would be hearing tied very closely to the mediation function and designed to implement that function by bringing whatever value ventilation has to the matter.

Mr. BROTZMAN. So it is a progressive adding of, shall we say, public attention, incentive and pressure to try to bring the parties to voluntarily agree upon something.

Secretary WIRTZ. That is correct.

Mr. BROTZMAN. This really leads up to my question. I wasn't clear, Mr. Secretary, the other day as to what your answer was relative to the present situation between the parties. If I understand your answer correctly to a question, there is no communication or no attempt being made to presently bargain on these respective points at the present time.

Is that a fair statement?

Secretary WIRTZ. Just very briefly, there was, on April 25, a meeting across the table between the two parties. That was on the question stimulated by the Senate committee's resolution, the question of whether they could find in that April 21 proposal an answer to their problems.

That meeting continued about an hour and was terminated with both of them keeping their previous position, which were rejections of that settlement.

On the weekend of April 29, 30, and May 1, there was a strong mediation attempt on the part of some of us who have been working with this case to see if we could find another answer which would have been somewhat different. That was intensive over the weekend. It did not involve the parties meeting across the table. It did not involve a formal change in either party's position.

It involved a strong mediation effort to see if there was another answer. That ended in frustration, completely.

There has since that time been an active keeping in touch with both parties and with the situation.

Mr. BROTZMAN. Keeping in touch by the mediators?

Secretary WIRTZ. By the mediators. There has been, so far as I know, no communication between the parties during that period. There has been mediation contact with both of them and there will continue to be. There is presently nothing working that would seem to be relevant to the disposition of this matter.

Mr. BROTZMAN. I was hoping we might have a courthouse step settle here. We are asked to do something that I am not sure anyone really likes so far as precedent is concerned.

It would seem to me that the incentives ought to be quite evident in this particular case. I am trying to find out if a settlement might be in the offing or if it looked even possible that such might occur even before the Congress is called upon to take definitive action.

Secretary WIRTZ. I would surely share that hope. I have no basis at this point for contributing to that expectation.

Mr. BROTZMAN. I thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Adams?

Mr. ADAMS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary, I want to express my appreciation to you personally and to your staff for the cooperation and the help that you have given to members of this committee as we have gone along.