

Mr. BLANTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary, do you feel that the trend in Federal intervention, and that is what it amounts to, in utilities such as the railroads is a trend toward both the regulation of the wage rate and the utility rate, too?

Secretary WIRTZ. We already have it on the utility rate side to a very considerable extent. I seem to have become oversensitive to the terminology, but I don't mean to be. We call it a trend. I am not sure the two cases are a trend.

There is surely a rising concern in the country today. It is reflected in the three times the Congress has considered it. I am not sure I have answered your question. I am a little confused, because we do already have it as far as the rates are concerned.

Mr. BLANTON. Isn't this a step, in your judgment, toward wage regulation by the Government, too?

Secretary WIRTZ. I have answered in terms of whether it would have an effect on the future, and I don't disregard that effect. When we ask whether it is a step, I suppose, it is true, and I don't mean to be facetious, but when I go home, which is 3 miles west, I take a step toward San Francisco. I don't intend to get there. I am a little worried about the taking-a-step point.

I have no difficulty with recognizing the fact that it does influence the future to some extent.

Mr. ADAMS. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. BLANTON. Yes.

Mr. ADAMS. Mr. Secretary, what would be the position of the administration if we should follow some scheme of either ad hoc or permanent legislation on, first, who should make the determination of a national emergency, the President, the Congress or some other body?

Secretary WIRTZ. I haven't shifted gears fast enough. I don't quite understand. What would be the position of the administration if the Congress were to take a step of what?

Mr. ADAMS. A step of establishing either ad hoc or permanent legislation in section 10 as is being contemplated here for the future.

Who do you think should declare that there is a national emergency?

Secretary WIRTZ. The President or the executive branch.

Mr. ADAMS. All right.

Which is the least objectionable to you in case of a seizure, a judicial receiver, an appointed Presidential Board, or a member of the Cabinet?

Secretary WIRTZ. In the case of a seizure?

Mr. ADAMS. Yes.

Secretary WIRTZ. I am not prepared to answer that, because I am opposed—

Mr. ADAMS. I know you are opposed, but I am asking you which is the least objectionable.

If something comes out, which do you think is best?

Secretary WIRTZ. All are equally objectionable.

Mr. ADAMS. You wouldn't select one?

Secretary WIRTZ. No.

Mr. ADAMS. What is the position of the administration on the appointment of a board at the final point of selecting something from either the Fahy Panel or, if it is permanent legislation, of taking the two public offers and putting it out, a board composed of two from