

Mr. BROWN. Do I understand that you do not feel that the second thing can be done?

Secretary WIRTZ. No. I think some answers of mine the first day may have contributed to that. I will try to correct them. I think both can be done.

Mr. BROWN. And should be done?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes.

Mr. BROWN. And will be done at least in the instant case. What about the other cases?

Secretary WIRTZ. I am assuming there will be a subsequent consideration of the longer range problem.

Mr. BROWN. Based on recommendations by the administration?

Secretary WIRTZ. There has been the indication from the President, now some 16 months ago, to that effect. I would expect that. I would not be in a position to say anything specific as to the time of it.

Mr. BROWN. I wonder if it is proper to ask if that recommendation would come after the resolution of the instant case?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes; I think it is fair to assume that.

Mr. BROWN. And prior to the next date in the instant case, which would be January 1, 1969, at the extremity?

Secretary WIRTZ. I am not in a position to answer that question.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. Secretary, I would like to submit that if you are not, I think no one is. I must, of necessity, be critical of that.

Secretary WIRTZ. No offense at all.

Mr. BROWN. I feel that the problem is such, and it has been recurrent to the extent, that such permanent recommendation must be made. If it is not, then the Congress may have to act without recommendation. Would you prefer that?

Secretary WIRTZ. Mr. Brown, let me make just these two comments: You understand the properties that are involved as far as my declining to answer are concerned, because that must come from the President.

But you will understand, too, I am sure, the justification for my pointing out that a meaningful recommendation from the administration would be one which takes account of the possibilities of its passage.

I know of no further testimony or more complete testimony to the difficulties of that particular point than the proceedings of the last couple of days. If we have this much trouble finding a common ground with respect to what to do about this case—which I should have thought was an extremity case—if there is this much difficulty in finding any kind of consensus of approach here, you do appreciate the considerations, which means that a responsible recommendation to the Congress on permanent legislation ought to take account of that same division of view.

Mr. BROWN. May I summarize that comment to suggest this: Are you advising us to act on this instant case and consider permanent legislation later?

Secretary WIRTZ. I worry only about the "advise." If you mean do I think that is a good thing to do, yes.

Mr. BROWN. Let me put it another way. You think we ought not consider permanent legislation now but, rather, this legislation which is aimed, as you have tried to point out, at this instant case only?