

Secretary WIRTZ. I will answer every question, but I will tell you right now, Mr. Chairman, that from this juncture on I will not be in a position to contribute at all in mediating this case.

You are dead right. This committee and the public is entitled to full information, and I will surely answer any question that you put. But you will understand, too, that that means that to testify here, to try to mediate over here, is an impossible combination.

I respect the ruling and I will comply with it, but I simply tell you that will preclude any possibility of negotiations.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand. I think the committee will bear with that. The question has been brought to the Congress now. It is our duty here to get every single shred of evidence that we can possibly get, anywhere on earth, and by any method in order to make a decision when we have to make that decision.

I do believe, perhaps, some of the questions could have been directed to the unions and to the railway organization when they are before the committee. I do say that. But I will not stop any committee member from trying to get any bit of evidence they can get in a legitimate way. The fact is that some of this perhaps could have been gotten from the rails or from the unions.

Secretary WIRTZ. I not only respect your ruling, but I think it is right.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman?

If at any point you feel the questions are not appropriate or not proper, Mr. Wirtz, I hope you will feel free to tell us.

Mr. ADAMS. Might I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we meet on this question as a committee in executive session and make a decision on it, reserving the right to recall Mr. Wirtz at a later time if this information becomes vital?

The CHAIRMAN. I have made a ruling on it. I think if we have an executive session we will have 25 or 32 different opinions.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, may I continue?

Mr. Secretary, in your statement on your first day of appearance before this committee, you made a number of comments with regard to the conduct of negotiations, some of which you had assurances that the matter would be concluded before it would be necessary, before the last 30-day period.

In other words, you felt that the matter would be resolved within the 90-day period. Is that correct?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes.

Mr. DINGELL. That being so, Mr. Secretary, would I be fair in inferring that perhaps it may not be necessary to include in the legislation any matters that follow that 90-day period, except to legislate the men back to work for that 90-day period, and to leave off the requirement that wages be fixed other than as provided in the first 90 days, and that the men be forced back to work for that 90-day period?

Secretary WIRTZ. I expressed an expectation, Mr. Dingell, but the country needs an insurance policy.

Mr. DINGELL. The insurance policy is now setting in a serious matter, Mr. Secretary. As you know, the Congress is an insurance policy on this matter. We are not being asked to consider permanent legislation; rather, we are being asked to consider an ad hoc approach to what is apparently a great problem.