

Secretary WIRTZ. In this case—your suggestion is right.

Mr. DINGELL. With regard to this other matter, I would like to hear from you how much negotiation went on during the time what you referred to as compulsory arbitration was taking place in the three prior to the 1963 legislation.

Secretary WIRTZ. A very great deal.

Mr. DINGELL. How much of the issues were resolved during that period?

Secretary WIRTZ. None.

Mr. DINGELL. So we really have no assurance that the matter will be concluded in the 2-year period in House Joint Resolution 559. We have no absolutely firm assurances that we will not find this matter in our lap at the end of 2 years; is that correct?

Secretary WIRTZ. I misunderstood your question. I thought it was how much went on during the period that Congress was considering the legislation, how much was settled during that period.

With respect to the period covered by the resolution, a very great deal was settled in addition to those matters covered by the Arbitration Board that was set up. In fact, all the other issues were settled, if my recollection serves me right, with the exception of the interdivisional run issue.

Mr. DINGELL. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Watson?

Mr. WATSON. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make one observation. Apparently at this juncture I am the ranking member on this side.

Mr. Secretary, it certainly was not my intention, and I don't believe it was the intention of anyone on this side of the committee, to jeopardize your position or to impair it as a mediator in this dispute.

So far as my questions, which were addressed to you, I was concerned about the absence of negotiations at this time. I don't recall during the time I have been here in this hearing that anyone on this side asked you specifically to comment on any of your discussions or any dialog that you had during the course of your mediation.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make that expressly clear on my part and on the part of the committee members on this side.

Secretary WIRTZ. Thank you

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Brown?

Mr. BROWN. I want to make that point, too, Mr. Chairman, and associate myself with the gentleman from South Carolina in that regard.

I think it would be a grave error to jeopardize the effectiveness of the Secretary of Labor as a mediator in this case. I am sure every member of this committee would like to see the case resolved before any action would have to be taken on House Joint Resolution 559.

For that reason, I would hope that if there are areas, Mr. Secretary, which you consider delicate and jeopardizing your position, Mr. Secretary, you would so advise us. It seems to me that such questions could be pursued, if they must be pursued, with you in executive session, or could, as you suggested or someone else suggested, be pursued with the representatives of the unions and the management in this case.

Secretary WIRTZ. It wouldn't help me any if it were in executive session. It may make it worse.

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Pickle?