

senting those employees, and the railroad industry would best be served if the carriers accepted the recommendations.

We did so accept and we publicly stated that we would negotiate an agreement within the framework of those recommendations.

The unions rejected the report. Their spokesman, the vice president of the International Association of Machinists, stated publicly that the recommendations were wholly inadequate and absolutely unrealistic. This same spokesman also had certain rather unkind things to say about the members of the Emergency Board.

On March 28, 29, and 30, 1967, the time of the parties was consumed by discussion of the Emergency Board recommendations.

On March 31, 1967, the National Mediation Board moved back into the dispute after the parties, unfortunately, had made little or no progress in solving their dilemma.

On April 6, 1967, Secretary of Labor Wirtz and Under Secretary Reynolds began separate talks with the parties. A suggestion was made that the deadline for a strike be deferred. We understood that this request came directly from our President.

The carriers accepted the request that there be a deferment so as to give the parties a greater opportunity to try to solve their own difficulties without further assistance from anyone and without causing uncertainties and apprehension in our country.

On April 10, 1967, President Johnson sent a message to Congress asking for a 20-day extension of the period of statutory restraint during which neither of the parties could legally resort to help-help. We agreed to that. The unions did not.

The House committee, as we understand it, almost immediately approved this resolution. We appeared before the Senate committee and at that time the Senate committee again made an effort to secure a voluntary acceptance of the request of the President for a 20-day deferment of the restraint period.

At that hearing, the chairman of the Senate committee made a personal request upon the parties to agree among themselves to the suggested deferment, and the two spokesmen for the unions said that they would recommend to their associates that the deferment be granted.

Later it was reported to the Senate that the request of the President had been refused, and it was stated to the press that the rejection was unanimous. That seems somewhat surprising in view of the fact that two members of the committee had stated to the Senate committee that they would affirmatively recommend that the deferment be accepted.

That came as a surprise to many, but not to me, because that was the kind of good-faith bargaining we had encountered from the very beginning.

On April 11, 1967, the Senate passed the 20-day resolution by a vote of 81 to 1. The House passed it 396 to 8.

On April 12, 1967, the President appointed a three-man panel to help the parties mediate their differences, and it was also provided that if the parties failed to reach an agreement this Special Panel would make such recommendations as it deemed to be appropriate in an effort to resolve the controversy.