

If Congress passes legislation, which I think would be unwise and I would argue against it before you, if you should pass such legislation whatever Congress decides the railroads will cooperate, and there will be no lockouts of any kind, or anything else to interfere with the conduct of our war in Vietnam or the health and welfare of our Nation.

We don't do business that way. We never have and we don't propose to. You will find the railroads will cooperate.

I am going to close, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, with this very brief statement.

We believe that if House Joint Resolution 559 is enacted into law, that it will solve this particular problem. It provides for further discussions, further negotiations, with the help of another Panel. Of course, we have about run out of boards and panels, but we will sit down and do our best to try to settle this problem in negotiations with the help of that Panel.

We would anticipate that the President will select dedicated, knowledgeable men to serve on that Panel. We hope that they will be helpful and that their objective may be attained.

If there is failure to reach an agreement which, of course, would be the ideal solution, then the recommendations of that Panel will become effective for a stated period of time, not to go beyond January 1, 1969.

That means that isn't the end of the whole dispute. It simply means that during that period whatever the panel thinks is proper would be effective. At the end of the period, if either party feels that justice had not been done, then that party, under the Railway Labor Act, which remains untouched, may serve a section 6 notice and then they will again have their day in court.

I do not consider that compulsory arbitration. I think it is an expedient. I think you have to be rather naive not to think so. But I think it is a worthwhile expedient when one considers what the alternatives are.

It is for that reason that the railroads of this Nation do support what the President has proposed, and we believe that the alternatives that have been suggested are not feasible, not workable, will not solve this problem and, therefore, should be rejected.

I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Wolfe.

I will defer all but one or two questions until the end. I would like to ask you, is there any collective bargaining going on at the present?

Mr. WOLFE. No, Mr. Chairman; there is not.

The CHAIRMAN. When was the last meeting?

Mr. WOLFE. April 25.

The CHAIRMAN. How long did you meet then?

Mr. WOLFE. How long did that meeting last?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. WOLFE. It did not last very long. I referred to it in my testimony.

The CHAIRMAN. Five minutes, 10 minutes, a half hour?

Mr. WOLFE. About a half hour, I would say.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you get to talk over any issues?

Mr. WOLFE. Yes, sir. We talked over—of course, the issues are rather finely drawn. It isn't one of these real complex cases where you have a great many working rules involved.