

We came to the table and there it was, the unions stating flatly and positively that the Fahy recommendations for across-the-board settlement would not be accepted by them and there was not very much else to talk about.

The CHAIRMAN. Have they made any counterproposals since that time?

Mr. WOLFE. Not to me; no, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Have they made any to the railroads, to your knowledge?

Mr. WOLFE. They have made no counterproposals to the railroads at all.

The CHAIRMAN. That certainly is not what I understood. I understood that there was a proposal. Maybe it was discussed with the Labor Department. We will have to ask them to come back again.

Mr. WOLFE. I know nothing. I can say this, that the last proposition we had from the unions was the proposition referred to by Mr. Fox in his testimony before the Senate committee last Thursday in answer to a direct question from a member of that committee as to what the last proposal of the unions was. He stated what that offer was and it was read into the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Was that presented to you?

Mr. WOLFE. Yes, quite early in the game, 6½ percent for the first year, 5 percent for the second year, 12½ cents retroactive to January 1, 1967, and another 12½ cents January 1, 1968.

The CHAIRMAN. And there has not been a subsequent proposal of 5, 5, and 5 percent and 5, 5, and 5 cents?

Mr. WOLFE. There has been no proposal to me. Mr. Fox stated before the Senate just a few days ago, that the last proposal, and it is right in the record, is the proposal that I referred to.

The CHAIRMAN. We will have to have the Labor Department back, then, because this had to be cleared up. That is the trouble about trying to find out without everybody being together. I think the next time we will have to have all of you in here together before we get through and find out who and what is making what proposal.

You agreed, I believe, that there was an inequity in some of the craft unions about the wages in certain areas in what is being paid by the railroads?

Mr. WOLFE. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I believe the record conclusively proves that the cents per hour increases had the effect of bringing about unjustifiably high rates for certain classes and lower rates for others.

There are intermediate rates that are high enough, and perhaps not too high. This same question has been before at least two Emergency Boards. Both decided that those inequities could not be measured at all, except by a job study. I agree.

The CHAIRMAN. I have a lot of figures here from all over the United States. I am not going to take the time to show that there are differentials. You have said that in your testimony, that there were differentials.

Mr. WOLFE. Absolutely, and I repeat it.

The CHAIRMAN. That is, in the skilled workers.

I believe also that you felt that this should be closed up slowly to conform with the different areas of the United States.