

In my opinion, it would take months to solve those things, and all during that period our people would suffer, our war effort would be seriously damaged, and then, in the final analysis, you would still have almost complete destruction of the vitality of our production in the country, with millions of innocent people suffering, including the wives and families of our employees with whom we have made agreements. We have made agreements with 13 unions representing roughly 74 percent of our employees.

The CHAIRMAN. I don't know whether I understood you or not. You said that this could be worked out under Government supervision?

Mr. WOLFE. I said I don't think it could be worked out at all unless it was Government supervised, and then it would take months and months to work it out so it would be even halfway workable. Even then you would have to draft practically all the Government workers to supervise the thing.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that the answer you gave to the Senate yesterday?

Mr. WOLFE. Substantially so; yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Friedel?

Mr. FRIEDEL. Mr. Wolfe, you said in your statement that if we pass this bill and try to dispense with this important matter, then you would be able to continue your talks. Why try to force Congress to pass legislation when you could be trying to bargain right now, trying to settle the matter now?

Mr. WOLFE. I do not believe, Congressman Friedel, that we are going to make an agreement without some help. I think and I believe that those who have been very closely associated with our problem, and I refer now to the Department of Labor and the National Mediation Board, share my views in that respect.

I believe Senator Morse, who is very knowledgeable in this field, also shares our view. I think if this resolution becomes law, we might have a different situation.

Mr. FRIEDEL. Mr. Wolfe, I want to make one thing clear: that I am not trying to take sides at the present time. The questions I ask you I will also ask the unions.

You made another statement that 74 percent of your employees have now settled. That means 26 percent have not. Are the 26 percent the skilled craftsmen?

Mr. WOLFE. The skilled craftsmen, Congressman Friedel, takes in quite a group. There are six unions here representing about 137,000 employees. Roughly 40,000 of those people are not skilled at all.

Mr. FRIEDEL. They are not what?

Mr. WOLFE. They are not skilled at all. They are the shop laborers, the helpers, the trainees, the apprentices who are seeking skills. They don't have them now. Then there are others who are intermediate; that is, they have some skills but we do not believe that the skill requirements are comparable to our higher class mechanics or to journeymen in outside industry.

That is one of our big problems. But to get the idea that we are dealing with 137,000 skilled employees is just not right.

Mr. FRIEDEL. I did not say that. I said you said that you have agreed with 74 percent of your employees. There is no problem there. That leaves 26 percent in the dispute. I thought they were the skilled and