

unskilled mechanics or electricians that you have not come to an agreement with. How far are you apart in that 24 or 26 percent?

Mr. WOLFE. There are two unions of any consequence that have not settled. We have a few small unions that haven't. The main reason, I believe, is that we just haven't gotten to them. It is not hurting them too badly because the effective date of the wage increase will be January 1. We are going to set dates for discussions with them. We have written them.

But the conductors and the engineers have not settled. I think we will make an agreement with the engineers. I am almost certain we will. As to the conductors, we are in dispute.

On the groups that we have settled with, we have settled with the clerks, the largest union we deal with. They have thousands upon thousands of highly skilled employees, the computer operators, the high-class secretaries and stenographers, the rate clerks, and so forth.

Mr. FRIEDEL. I think we are getting a little far afield here. We are led to believe that you are not too far apart with this other 26 percent. I don't know what they base it on. I am trying to find out from you, are you too far apart, or can you get together and settle this thing so the country can be at ease without forcing Congress to pass legislation that we might regret, you might regret, and the unions might regret?

Mr. WOLFE. You speak now of the shopcraft unions, do you?

Mr. FRIEDEL. Yes.

Mr. WOLFE. The best I can do is to give you the same answer I gave the chairman: that I do not think we can make an agreement unless we have some pretty expert assistance. I think that assistance can best come from the panel that is referred to in House Joint Resolution 559.

Mr. FRIEDEL. We have 27 days and we are losing minutes now. Why aren't you trying right now to get together and settle this thing?

Mr. WOLFE. There comes a time, Mr. Congressman, when your efforts are exhausted. I think that is exactly where we stand now without a lot of pressure from somebody.

Mr. FRIEDEL. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Springer?

Mr. SPRINGER. There is one thing that is disturbing the committee, and apparently it is not being brought out. I have been trying to bring it to a head, Mr. Wolfe; that is, what the issues are and where you are.

Let me take these issues one by one. Let's find out where we are on the issues. Let's take them. There were eight proposals by labor, is that correct, originally? Let me go through all eight of them.

The paid lunch period was withdrawn; is that correct?

Mr. WOLFE. The what?

Mr. SPRINGER. The paid lunch period was withdrawn.

Mr. WOLFE. Yes.

Mr. SPRINGER. The pay for jury duty is next. Is that still in dispute?

Mr. WOLFE. I don't think it is.

Mr. SPRINGER. The Board didn't make a recommendation on this at all.

Mr. WOLFE. The Board rejected all of the carriers' proposals, every one of them, and rejected everything—

Mr. SPRINGER. Wait a minute. Stay with these one by one. We will never get anyplace if we take generalities.