

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. By "higher authority" do you mean within the brotherhoods or within the Labor Department?

Mr. WOLFE. I am not absolutely certain.

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. You were not consulted in regard to them?

Mr. WOLFE. No, I was not.

Mr. ADAMS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. I will be glad to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ADAMS. Is it your testimony, Mr. Wolfe, that you know of no offer that has been made for mediation to railroad management after the meeting on April 25 which would involve a proposal of roughly 5 percent plus 5, 5, and 5 as recommended by the Fahy Panel? Is that your statement?

Mr. WOLFE. Let me clarify it to this extent: The only knowledge I have at all about anything like that was a call I received, a personal call, that there had been discussions with some top officers of AFL-CIO, and they were talking somewhere in that area. But there was no assurance given to me that it was acceptable to anyone.

Mr. ADAMS. What is your position?

Mr. WOLFE. My position is that anything that goes beyond the recommendations of the duly constituted Boards that have studied this would not be accepted to the railroads.

Mr. ADAMS. In other words, as far as you are concerned, bargaining, mediation, and everything else has stopped, and if the unions don't accept what the last Board—not even what the last Board stated, but your position on the last Board's recommendation, there is not going to be any further bargaining or mediation?

Mr. WOLFE. No. If anybody comes to us with any proposition to continue to bargain or anything else, we will talk about it.

Mr. ADAMS. Will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. Yes.

Mr. ADAMS. That is not what I understood you to say just now.

Mr. Reporter, would you read back what he said?

(The reporter read from his notes as requested.)

Mr. ADAMS. What is it?

Mr. WOLFE. That is exactly my position, my public position. But that doesn't mean I have contradicted myself because I have not. We will always discuss; we will always listen to propositions. Bargaining, collective bargaining, isn't done out in the public.

Mr. ADAMS. That is exactly the point, Mr. Wolfe, and we agree with that. But you brought this matter—by "you" I mean all of the parties to this—to the public, and the public interest is involved.

This is precisely the point that we have been making to the parties that are before us. Once you have done that, then the game, as you might refer to it—I would rather not—as the bargaining changes. That is precisely what we are thinking about, taking the lid off of this collective bargaining and finding out, as Mr. Springer has attempted to do, and the other members have, where the parties are, why it broke down, and why it hasn't been settled before we jump in and pass some overall legislation that will, as you point out, terminate this matter, but will, in effect, say we, the Congress, through a special board, are settling your dispute.