

You can call it anything you want. It is compulsory arbitration.
Thank you, Mr. Van Deerlin.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Cunningham?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Wolfe, I asked this question of the Secretary of Labor, and I would like to have your response to it.

If there is a strike, sir, is there any power that you know of in the executive branch to do anything about the strike?

Mr. WOLFE. Mr. Cunningham, I am not a lawyer, but our lawyers have told us that there is no power now vested in the executive branch that would solve our problem.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. That, I believe, is what Mr. Wirtz has stated to be his position.

There is talk that if we do not pass this bill the Government may seize the railroads in the event of a strike. Perhaps I should ask our chairman. Does the Government have the law on its side for seizure?

The CHAIRMAN. Do you mean at the present time?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. If there is a strike and the country is in an awful mess, without legislative action can the executive branch seize the railroads?

The CHAIRMAN. There is a disagreement about that. Some say yes and some say no. If it is put into this law, of course, they would have the right to seize.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I would be hopeful that they wouldn't. But I am wondering what is going to happen if there is a strike. What power does the Federal Government have in meeting it? That was the purpose of my question.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee has been served notice that we will not be able to sit this afternoon. We will have to ask you to return tomorrow morning.

I have one clarification before you leave.

I asked you a while ago if an offer had been made to the management after the 25th of April or after this last meeting, and mentioned the figures of 5 and 5 percent, and 5, 5, and 5 cents. I believe you said to me "No."

Mr. WOLFE. That is correct.

The CHAIRMAN. I believe in answer to Mr. Adams' question, you said someone called you and had a telephone conversation with you, relating this to you.

Mr. WOLFE. That is correct. Not the amounts. No amounts at all. It was simply that a discussion had been had with a very high officer of AFL-CIO, and there was a new area.

The CHAIRMAN. I might ask you this: Did this person who called you say that the unions had agreed to this?

Mr. WOLFE. No, sir; he did not. I have confirmed that.

The CHAIRMAN. We will have them here and I will ask them. This is a rumor going around and I would like to clarify it.

Mr. WOLFE. I would like to have it clarified because, Mr. Chairman, I particularly asked that individual after I had heard a question from you, I believe, as to that feature. I called him and asked him, "Had the unions bound themselves to it?" He said "Absolutely no."