

Mr. WOLFE. To the best of my knowledge——

Mr. MACDONALD. Or anybody representing the railroads.

Mr. WOLFE. I have no knowledge except this: I was not invited. If I was, the invitation was lost in the mail.

Mr. MACDONALD. The administration is pretty good at following through on matters of that sort, I am sure you are aware. What really astounded me——

The CHAIRMAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MACDONALD. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. I believe Mr. Boyd mentioned the statement. Maybe he was speaking for the railroads.

Mr. MACDONALD. Well, he is Secretary of Transportation, but I would hesitate to say that he speaks just for one side, although some of the testimony, I agree, Mr. Chairman, that he gave before us seemed to have him speaking only for the railroads.

He said that the offer—Mr. Boyd said—without any hearings, if this article is correct—and I was not invited, nor was anyone from this committee invited—or he is quoted as saying, and I am sure accurately, the relevant Government agencies had concluded that the offer, the offer to move military goods and goods affecting the public safety and health, “is not practical, feasible, or economical.”

Is that his press release?

Mr. WOLFE. Yes.

Mr. MACDONALD. He is very good at putting out press releases. He put out a press release before he testified before this committee concerning testimony that he was going to give here. I will put this by way of a question:

What is impractical, unfeasible or uneconomical about having a meeting of all the people involved to discuss the matter?

Mr. WOLFE. Mr. Macdonald, you are going far beyond my field of knowledge.

Mr. MACDONALD. I am not going 1 inch beyond your field. You are the mediator representing all the railroads.

Mr. WOLFE. But I would not be in a position to say what is practical, feasible, or economical about having other Government people, such as members of this committee, present. I know nothing about that.

Mr. MACDONALD. Don't you think it would be practical, feasible, and economical to have members of the railroad industry invited to such a meeting?

Mr. WOLFE. There, again, Mr. Congressman, I think it would be wrong for me to express an opinion even if I had one, which I do not have. So far as the conclusion expressed in this press release as to what is practical, feasible, or economical in regard to the brotherhoods' proposal, I agree with that entirely and so testified yesterday.

Mr. MACDONALD. The point of my questioning if you, and it necessarily limited by time, is this committee is asked, on page 2 of the bill, “Whereas, the national interest, including national health and defense, requires the transportation services be maintained,” et cetera, to solve this problem.

Why wouldn't it be a very good idea, indeed, to have the parties get together to determine what will be carried, what will not be carried, if, indeed, the brotherhoods say they will not handle certain material, and then we will know whether or not there is a national emergency?