

From 1937 throughout they were with the 11 and up to 14 so-called cooperating, nonoperating unions.

When we came to settle on the basis of that Emergency Board report, again the unions demanded that 2½ percent be converted into a cents-per-hour increase to be spread across the board equally to all employees. I resisted right up to the point where it looked as if we were going to break off.

Finally, I said, "Well, we will convert the 2½ percent, but the agreement must contain a provision that the carriers agreed to this at the insistence of the unions, and only because it became positive that we could not make an agreement any other way."

Mr. Congressman, I think that is a very strong indication of our recognition of the problem, our effort to dispose of it on the same basis that it was created, over a reasonable period of years. But the unions would not agree to it and the record is absolutely clear on it.

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Let me ask one last question.

Here is what I am trying to develop: Looking back, and they say we can all be very philosophical in retrospect—and this is for the purpose of trying to find information—do you have any regrets now that you just didn't stand firm, period, and say, OK, strike. This has to be done, we have to look forward, we have to take the sensible approach of eliminating this series of horizontal increases.

Do you regret that maybe you didn't go ahead and say, OK, we can't reach agreement. Go ahead and strike and we will settle it right now.

Mr. WOLFE. No; I have no regrets, for the reason that part of the time we were at war, and then we were going through the acute period of adjustment following the war. Then we had the Korean disturbance.

It seems that since 1937 and up to now we have always had problems that just would not permit a national strike of the railroads.

And let me say this to you: I have been criticized by Members of Congress for failure to make agreements. I don't know what they would have done to me if I had come in here on the basis that this Nation was faced with a national catastrophe and my only defense was that I wouldn't agree to an across-the-board increase.

I can assure you, sir, from past experience, that the treatment that I would have received would have been something less than pleasant.

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SPRINGER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KUYKENDALL. I believe my time has expired.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Jarman.

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Chairman, a point of order.

Is it the intent of the Chair to go down the line of the members by seniority this morning? We stopped yesterday with Mr. Cunningham and you resumed with Mr. Cunningham. I notice he starts again at the head. What is the procedure?

The CHAIRMAN. I am going to get to those who did not ask questions yesterday.

Mr. Jarman.

Mr. JARMAN. I think the particular question that I would have would be with reference to whether you are in a position now to make any statement on recommendations that you might favor for permanent legislation that would be a solution to this problem.