

I know you did to Mr. Kuykendall, but could you briefly tell that again, the chronology of the collective bargaining as you understand it?

Mr. WOLFE. From the very beginning?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. WOLFE. Beginning with the serving of the notices?

The CHAIRMAN. No. I just want when you started collective bargaining, actually facing each other and talking.

Mr. WOLFE. I think it would be well, Mr. Chairman, to start with negotiations at the national level.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, I think that is right.

Mr. WOLFE. The unions had asked for national handling of this.

Negotiations at the national level began on September 28, 1966. After some discussions, negotiations, the parties met and agreed to seek the assistance of the National Mediation Board. That was a mutual understanding, that both parties would invoke the services of the Board.

On October 19, just 1 week later, the mediation began and it continued intermittently through January 6, 1967.

Mediation was conducted in the customary manner.

By the way, the Chairman of the National Mediation Board personally handled that mediation. A mediator was not assigned. He did it himself.

As usual, he did an excellent job. That is Mr. Frank O'Neill.

He met with the parties separately time after time. We met together on occasions.

Finally, on October 25, 6 days after mediation began, the unions authorized a strike for February 13, 1967.

On October 27, 1966, 2 days after the strike was authorized, the Chairman of the National Mediation Board submitted a proposal for settlement to the parties. That proposed settlement followed very largely the terms of the settlements that had already been effected with other unions.

The railroads accepted the proposed settlement and the unions rejected it.

On January 6, 1967, the Mediation Board, after advising the parties that the efforts of the Mediation Board were exhausted and an agreement had not been made, proffered arbitration. That is a mandatory procedure under the law.

The railroads accepted the proffer of arbitration and the unions rejected it.

On January 28, 1967, the President appointed Emergency Board No. 169.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Wolfe, I think you are giving me the chronology of the mediation. I asked about collective bargaining, when you would get together and talk. Tell me the times you have been together and talked.

Mr. WOLFE. I do not have that record with me, but we met day after day.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you meet for 5 days, 10 days, 20 days, 30 days? You have been at this for almost a year and a half now, haven't you?

Mr. WOLFE. Actually, at the national level since September 28, 1966. Let me count the months.