

The CHAIRMAN. That is all right.

You can't tell me anything about any collective bargaining, then?

Mr. WOLFE. All I can say is I think the parties met, discussed, talked with mediators, the Secretary of Labor, the Under Secretary, and did everything we usually do in this type of a case.

The CHAIRMAN. The reason I asked you this question was to read to you a report of the Emergency Board 169, just a paragraph of it.

This Board was made of Ginsburg, Dugan, and McConnell. It says, "As the case developed," and this was submitted on March 10, 1967, and they met on February 1 through 9, as I recall, "it became apparent that no real bargaining had actually taken place between the parties before their appearance before the Board."

That is in February.

I will skip to their conclusions.

"We believe the continuation of this practice will defeat other attempts to improve labor relations in the railroad industry. The Board therefore recommends" and it listed certain recommendations that should be followed.

But it said that there was no real bargaining done until the Emergency Board was appointed.

I believe the Board is correct, that collective bargaining, if this kind of practice is allowed to continue, is dead in the United States. The time you legislate wages for anybody, if you put the railroads under legislation, if it doesn't come in this bill it will come sooner or later. I think the railroads ought to know that. We ought to have collective bargaining. That is what built the Nation.

It looks to me like the machinery has broken down.

Have you any comment on that?

Mr. WOLFE. Yes; I do.

I disagree with the Emergency Board as to the collective bargaining that had taken place.

The CHAIRMAN. These are three pretty prominent men in America. Do you want me to tell you their backgrounds?

Mr. WOLFE. I know them so well.

The CHAIRMAN. You think they made a misstatement?

Mr. WOLFE. In that respect. But as to their whole recommendation, their report to the President, we accepted the report made by those three prominent, fine men, which they are.

The CHAIRMAN. I know that. I am talking about the collective bargaining, where this ought to be instead of being before three or four other people.

Mr. WOLFE. I think the best answer, Mr. Chairman, and I want you to know that I am trying to give you the best answer that I possibly can give you which will square with the facts, is we did settle in collective bargaining with 13 unions, 13 large unions. We were not here or anyplace else asking for help. That is a pretty good indication of whether we bargained in good faith or did not.

It is true we failed in this case. There couldn't be anyone who feels any more badly about it than I do.

The CHAIRMAN. We are talking about two different things in a way. You are talking about the ones that were settled and they were settled. But you have six unions here that are involved in this dispute now, and I am talking about collective bargaining with these six unions.