

As a matter of fact, the negotiators even for the union were not present, if I understand correctly.

Mr. Leighty is not a negotiator. He is not involved in this at all. As a matter of fact, we have settled with Mr. Leighty's union.

Mr. MACDONALD. Thank you.

Mr. MOSS. Mr. Chairman, I have just completed familiarizing myself with the testimony of yesterday. I have no questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Watson.

Mr. WATSON. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Kornegay.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Mr. Wolfe, what, in your opinion, would happen if this committee were to just say we take the position of washing our hands of this matter and throw it back to you, the railroads, and the unions? Would there be a strike?

Mr. WOLFE. In my opinion there would be a strike; yes, sir.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Would you attempt to further negotiate this matter and collectively bargain to arrive at some reasonable disposition of this dispute? That is, with the time that is left, approximately 30 days?

Mr. WOLFE. As I testified yesterday, Mr. Kornegay, it appears that we have reached one of those serious deadlocks that occasionally, but I hope infrequently, happens in collective bargaining.

The railroads are in a very unfortunate position. We deal with 24 unions. It is traditional in the industry that we do not give preferential treatment to one group over the many other groups with which we deal.

After having what we believe to be considerable success in our efforts to make agreements, and then to proceed to give these unions more than they are entitled to, more than can be justified, and thus unsettle everything that has been settled, we believe that that cannot be done and we should not be asked to do it.

A settlement cannot be reached, in my opinion, unless the railroads are prepared to do something that will be more destructive of sound collective bargaining in our industry than has ever happened during the history of free collective bargaining.

Mr. KORNEGAY. I gather in your opinion there would be a strike on June 17, if that is the correct date?

Mr. WOLFE. Yes, sir; I firmly believe that there will be a strike.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Do you have an opinion, sir, as to how long that strike will last?

Mr. WOLFE. No; I do not.

Mr. KORNEGAY. This is assuming it was left up to the parties and there was no intervention on the part of the Congress?

Mr. WOLFE. I do not know how long it would last.

I think such a tragedy should not occur. I think it could not last long. I don't think our country can stand it. I don't think the people of our country should be asked to suffer the consequences of such a devastating thing. Some way would have to be found to dispose of it, and quickly.

Mr. KORNEGAY. I don't know whether you were here the day the Secretary of Transportation testified or not. Were you, sir?

Mr. WOLFE. Yes, sir; I was.

Mr. KORNEGAY. You were here?

Mr. WOLFE. Yes, sir.