

Mr. LEIGHTY. No; there has been no agreement on that.

Mr. SPRINGER. I want to see if I can get the brotherhood's offer. If I state this correctly, would you say yes, and if I don't, amend it to correct it?

First, in the first year, if this were a 2-year agreement, it would be 6½ percent across the board plus 12½ cents for 1967. For 1968, 5 percent across the board and 12½ cents for 1968. Have I stated that correctly?

Mr. LEIGHTY. That is correct.

Mr. SPRINGER. Are there any amendments to that or any other conditions?

Mr. LEIGHTY. Any other conditions?

Mr. SPRINGER. Yes.

Mr. LEIGHTY. The only conditions are the same conditions that are in these other contracts, that they are free to negotiate on other issues. But all of the 74 percent which have settled do have that right to negotiate on other issues at any time.

Mr. SPRINGER. I just wanted to be sure that we knew where the respective parties stood.

Thank you, Mr. Leighty.

Mr. DINGELL (presiding). Mr. Rogers.

Mr. ROGERS. I just wish to ask a question or two.

All of us wish the Congress did not have to be involved in this, as you know, and wish the parties would go ahead and settle it.

Mr. LEIGHTY. We wish it would go away.

Mr. ROGERS. As I understand it, it is the position of your people that you feel it would be dreadful to have a nationwide strike.

Mr. LEIGHTY. We don't want a nationwide strike.

Mr. ROGERS. And you agree that this would be so hurtful that we should try to avoid this?

Mr. LEIGHTY. That is right.

Mr. ROGERS. You have gone to the extent of saying that you would deliver necessary services for defense and health.

Mr. LEIGHTY. That is right.

Mr. ROGERS. I think this is well established, that any nationwide strike would be harmful to the welfare of the Nation.

Mr. LEIGHTY. I think so; yes.

Mr. ROGERS. Where two parties cannot agree, since the Nation cannot endure a nationwide strike, what machinery should the Congress set up to help get the parties together? When everything else has failed, when you can't get together, either you won't agree or the other side won't agree, should there be some machinery that the Congress should set up to try to help get the parties together?

Mr. LEIGHTY. The only solution I have at the present time for a situation of that kind to prevent a nationwide strike would be seizure of the railroads on an equitable basis. It is the welfare of the country that is involved. If it gets to the point where it is for the welfare of the country, then we feel that whoever operates the property and receives the profit thereof should be the Government, not a private individual.

If you are going to deprive these people of their right to strike, or if they are going to be deprived of that right for the period of the seizure, which they would be, then the profits during that period should not inure to private corporations. They should go to the Government.