

infamous Federal injunction which broke the great railroad shopmen's strike of 1922. That was the last time the shop crafts struck the Nation's railroads—45 years ago.

I could expand at some length on our views about this bill, House Joint Resolution 559, but I do not want you to have to hear the same story twice.

Mr. Leighty, speaking on behalf of substantially all of the railway labor unions, has given you railway labor's detailed views about this legislation and about the general background from which you may wish to judge it.

I believe I can help you most today by telling you about the dispute which gave rise to the President's message of May 4 and to the present bill. I shall sketch in very briefly the background of the dispute. The more recent events, including the propaganda claims by the railroads, deserve more thorough treatment.

This dispute began on May 17, 1966, when the shop craft organizations served notices on the railroads asking for a 20-percent general pay increase effective January 1, 1967; a cost-of-living escalator clause; increased overtime rates; differentials of 18 cents an hour for the swing shift and 25 cents an hour for the night shift; substantial improvements in the vacation and holiday rules; paid 30-minute lunch periods; and pay for jury duty service.

The railroads in June 1966 served drastic counterproposals. These called for abolishing all craft lines in our work; gutting our national job security agreement of September 25, 1964; slashing by 20 percent the hourly pay of all new employees except journeymen mechanics; and weakening other established rules.

The railroad negotiators found time to hold only 4 days of very limited direct national negotiations with us last year at which they made no real effort to engage in meaningful collective bargaining.

Regular national mediation by the Chairman of the National Mediation Board ended after only seven very brief sessions, during which the railroads again made no real effort to settle.

We have prepared on a one-page sheet a listing that shows the amount of time spent in negotiations and in all kinds of mediation since we began this movement more than a year ago. That sheet is attached to my statement and I ask permission, Mr. Chairman, that it be printed in your hearing record at the end of my statement.

The CHAIRMAN. It will be included at that point.

(See p. 269.)

Mr. RAMSEY. At this time, I might depart from the text for a moment to call your attention to the fact that this chronology of meetings since the 1966 wage rules movement includes in the time designated for each meeting the total time from the time we met until we departed from the meeting or conference.

So, it would include short recesses or even extended recesses when we were in mediation. The total time on direct negotiations, if you care to note it, for the first item, is a total of 4 hours on several days.

Mediation sessions, including recesses, totaled 10 hours and 25 minutes on the several dates. Of course, the Emergency Board hearing included the days of February 1 to 9, inclusive. The total time, as you will note, for our meeting with members of the Ginsburg Board, was 1 hour and 50 minutes.