This meeting of the carrier officials and their lobbyists to plan a law took place on April 5—and what happened after that? The railroads refused to make us the counterproposal they had promised on March 29.

Our strike call, set for April 13, was postponed; the Presidential Mediation Panel was appointed; the Panel made its recommendations—and the railroads rejected them, even though these recommendations were so similar to the Emergency Board recommendations they claim to have accepted.

The railroads then held on negotiating session with us, suggested terms they knew we could never accept—and then walked out. The railroads then began publishing big newspaper ads headed "Countdown to Chaos," calling for a compulsory arbitration law. They began flooding Members of Congress with similar propaganda. That is how the railroads have behaved since that April 5 meeting with their lobbyists. The record seems plain: railroad managements have decided they want a law, not a settlement.

A second propaganda claim by the railroads involves the question of "pattern" settlements. They say they have settled on a "pattern" basis with unions representing over 70 percent of their employees; they imply that this "pattern" is a 5 percent 1-year pay increase; and they say, to quote a recent statement by their chief negotiator: "If we violate the tradition that preferential treatment will not be given to any union * * * it will completely destroy collective bargaining."

There are several things wrong with this argument. First, the railroad shopmen are represented by their own organizations; no other labor union speaks for them and none can set a "pattern" for them.

Second, to my knowledge, no other railway labor union objects in any way to the shop craft unions' willing the best possible settlement for the men we represent.

Third, the supposed 1-year 5-percent "pattern" does not exist. Three of the railroad operating unions settled their 1966 movements on a basis of 5-percent retroactive to last August 12 and running through next December 31, plus other improvements. Four nonoperating unions settled on a basis of 5 percent as of last January 1, plus another 2½ percent next January 1 to run through June 30, 1968, plus an inequity adjustment on away-from-home expenses that may bring quite substantial payments.

Another nonoperating union settled on a basis of 5 percent as of last January 1 for 1 year, plus an inequity adjustment on away-from-home expenses. Thus, there is considerable variety in the settlements made; and two unions, in addition to the shop crafts, have not yet settled.

(A third week of paid vacation after 10 years was also won by the unions that settled, and apparently the railroads are willing to grant our members that.)

Both the Emergency Board and the President's Mediation Panel in our dispute gave much weight—far too much weight, we think—to the "pattern" approach.

The Emergency Board proposed a 2-year wage agreement with a 5-percent general increase on January 1, 1967, and a wage reopener on January 1, 1968. The Mediation Panel proposed a 6-percent general increase from last January 1 to run until June 30, 1968.