

There are 3,417 regular apprentices.

There are 3,815 coach cleaners; 5,847 classified laborers; 7,577 general laborers; 738 stationary engineers; and 554 stationary firemen.

So the total at that time, January 1966, was 130,263.

During the year they have increased in number to where there are 137,000, approximately.

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Ramsey, are you saying, then, that the total number of employees you have just mentioned are those involved in this specific strike? Are these memberships nationally or are these just in this particular industry?

Mr. RAMSEY. Just in this industry, sir.

Mr. PICKLE. I understand the industry. But these are national figures?

Mr. RAMSEY. These are the national figures.

Mr. PICKLE. Will you tell me the number involved in the specific strike that we are referring to today? Just on the shop crafts.

Mr. RAMSEY. I didn't get the question. The buzzer was going.

Mr. PICKLE. All I was trying to establish is the actual number of employees involved in the particular and specific dispute under consideration now, not the national memberships in these particular six unions, but the ones involved in this particular localized or regional strike.

Mr. RAMSEY. 137,000 is the total.

Mr. PICKLE. How many?

Mr. RAMSEY. 137,000 is the total. Our organization alone has 980,000 and the electrical workers have 870,000.

Mr. PICKLE. In the dispute that is currently underway, just as a matter of general reaction do you think the parties involved in the dispute, whether union or railroad employees, should have the authority to make a decision themselves, or should they be able to go back to either management or their crafts for a further vote?

Mr. RAMSEY. We are talking about a referendum vote, I presume?

Mr. PICKLE. Referendum, or should the parties involved have plenary powers to actually make an agreement that is a contract.

Mr. RAMSEY. I think a referendum vote in this industry on a national basis is just completely out of the question. It shouldn't take place. I would assure you right now when we talk about, perhaps, the vote taken in the airline dispute, where it went about 3 to 1 the first time against the proposal, which was a fairly reasonable proposal, this would go 9 to 1 against.

Mr. PICKLE. In your testimony, I think you said on page 6, that the unions could not allow any cut in pay rates. As I recall, a representative of management the other day said that any cut, if at all, would not apply to any present workers but only with respect to the new workers. Am I correct in that statement?

Mr. RAMSEY. No, because they would provide what is termed under job evaluation red circle rates, and the present incumbent would no doubt continue to receive that rate until such time as he vacated the job, through a quit, bidding, or some other method. But we are in the same position when we talk about that as you Members of the Congress are. We don't look at only the guy who is living today. We have to think about the one who is growing up, and the one to come into this world, and to protect their future.