

there wasn't any termination date of the contract. It just continues and continues on. You serve a section 6 notice whenever you get ready to make a proposed change.

Mr. BROWN. But you selected the 20 percent; is that right?

Mr. RAMSEY. We arrived at 20 percent in connection with the mechanics' rate, which would have taken it up by 60 cents an hour.

Mr. BROWN. Did this include, then, the skill differentials?

Mr. RAMSEY. It wasn't in the picture. That was one of the modifications that developed. We knew that certainly under the present circumstances we couldn't expect in one lump sum to correct the wages by a full 20 percent. So we started making modifications and asking for a 2-year contract.

Congressman Watkins mentioned a 3-year agreement. We wouldn't be adverse to a 3-year agreement under proper terms.

Mr. BROWN. Do I understand that the 20 percent included the skill differential thought, then?

Mr. RAMSEY. Yes.

Mr. BROWN. If I understand also, the 6½ percent increase for 1 year and the 5 percent increase for the succeeding year amounts to about 11.8 percent and 12½ cents—12½ cents makes up the difference between that and what you said was 19 percent total wage increase?

Mr. RAMSEY. It only applies, of course, to three-quarters of the people, because the unskilled laborers wouldn't share in the skill differential.

Mr. BROWN. Yes, I understand.

If House Joint Resolution 559 passed, will there be an end to railway management-labor negotiations until January 1, 1969, or are there other unions involved here with which railroad management has not settled which will present a problem in negotiation between now and then?

Mr. RAMSEY. I am not absolutely familiar with their status. The conductors, I believe, have taken a strike vote, and there is every expectation there will be an emergency board appointed to that dispute.

I understand from, let's say, authentic sources that Board will be appointed by June 2 or 3. That is for the conductors.

Mr. BROWN. The terminal date is not until after the 19th of June, which is the present ending date of the continuation which Congress passed by resolution, under which you are operating; is that correct?

Mr. RAMSEY. I have told you the information I have with regard to the conductors.

Mr. BROWN. When is the date at which the conductors' strike is a possibility?

Mr. RAMSEY. I don't know, sir. I don't know whether they have actually set a date. The continuation time under the Railway Labor Act will not apply to them.

Mr. BROWN. My question still is: You don't know the date?

Mr. RAMSEY. No, sir.

Mr. BROWN. Do you think it is before or after the 19th of June? Have you any idea?

Mr. RAMSEY. Maybe there is somebody in the audience who can answer.

Here is the conductors' representative, one of them.