Mr. SCHOENE. I would be very much surprised if the National Mediation Board and the Secretary of Labor, and all the other people who have participated in the handling of this dispute, have not tried to work that out. I think they probably have.

They have been unsuccessful.

Mr. ROGERS. Perhaps we ought to find out why they don't want to proceed in this way on a voluntary basis, if they are concerned with maintaining free collective bargaining.

Mr. SHOENE. I think this might be a useful subject to pursue, but I am not the proper witness with whom to pursue it.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MACDONALD (presiding). Mr. Watson.

Mr. WATSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Schoene, how many unions are affiliated with the Railway Labor Executives' Association?

Mr. SCHOENE. Twenty-three.

Mr. WATSON. Of those 23 unions, 13 have already agreed voluntarily to a new contract?

Mr. SCHOENE. I think that is probably the correct number. When you say a new contract, I think you should understand this. We do not have term contracts in the railroad industry. Contracts are opened from time to time on various subjects, depending upon what notices are served. So when you are talking about contracts in this context, it is only a wage and vacation question that has been settled.

There are other subjects now open, such as stabilization of employment. In the case of five of the nonoperating unions there is still pending a disposition which arose as part of their wage case as to away from home expenses, traveltime and travel allowances, which is in no danger of becoming a crisis because the parties have already agreed that if they are unable to resolve the differences on that, they will arbitrate.

Mr. WATSON. Although you have not been directly involved in negotiations in this dispute, I am sure your capacity as General Counsel to the Labor Executives' Association causes you to be concerned with this matter and you have been following it very closely, haven't you?

Mr. SCHOENE. I am very much concerned, very deeply concerned. I have been devoting substantially all my time to this.

Mr. WATSON. You are aware of the fact, or at least I have been led to believe, that the average increase has been about 5 percent for the 13 unions that have already voluntarily arbitrated or negotiated a new contract, is that not correct?

Mr. SCHOENE. No; I don't think that is correct.

The settlements vary considerably as both Mr. Leighty and Mr. Ramsey have pointed out. Generally, in the case of the operating brotherhoods, it involved a 5 percent wage increase, but it was retroactive to August of 1966, whereas in the case of the shopcrafts the opening date is January 1, 1967, and that makes a considerable difference.

In the case of four organizations there was involved in the settlement not only a 5-percent increase effective January 1, 1967, but a further 2½-percent increase effective January 1, 1968, and a reopener as of July 1, 1968.