

Mr. GILBERT. I am afraid that is a new one on me. I have not had access to it, at least.

Mr. KEITH. Can you think of any other ways in which management and labor could be forced to bargain?

Mr. GILBERT. Again, I may have to repeat a little in this, Congressman. The benefits that accrue or have accrued on the basis of lack of bargaining should be removed and that has only been a one-way street as far as we can see.

Management says, "Well, we are not going to do it," and they are told, "Well, you know, we can't stand a railroad strike."

If they are uncertain about what the end results would be, as I have seen that occur through the years, they would get to the bargaining table and dispose of these issues where we believe they should be. I know my own experience runs over a period of some 40-odd years, but during that period of time we sat down at the table and regardless of the tremendous size of the problem as it appeared to be, we always found a plateau on which we could have a common meeting and dispose of it.

But recently the carrier representatives have found it profitable, let us say, to pass the responsibilities that should be on their shoulders to Congress. I can't see it in any other way.

Mr. KEITH. I was impressed by Mr. Macdonald's observations regarding voluntary arbitration. Certainly it is appropriate that certain of the problems could be worked out in this manner. Can you think of any possible ways that you could voluntarily arbitrate the problems?

Mr. GILBERT. Understand, Congressman, I cannot speak of the observations involved. I can only repeat what I told Congressman Macdonald. There are many areas where, through the years, we have agreed—

Mr. KEITH. I heard that. I wondered, is there any possible way in which the unions might accept voluntary arbitration?

Mr. GILBERT. Unfortunately, Mr. Congressman, I can't give you any help on that because I cannot speak for the organizations involved.

Mr. MACDONALD. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. KYROS?

First of all, I would like to welcome Congressman Kyros to the committee. To my knowledge, this is his first appearance on the committee. We welcome you. We are very glad to be able to serve with you.

Mr. KYROS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to be with you. I have no questions at this time.

Mr. MACDONALD. Mr. Carter?

Mr. CARTER. Is it your feeling that collective bargaining between the railroad unions and management is not taking place because of the threat of passage of the Staggers bill, 559?

Mr. GILBERT. I think that is the relief that the representatives of the railroads feel gives them comfort. If they can get this, then they are relieved of their responsibilities to negotiate with the employees.

Mr. CARTER. Certainly I think most of us would like to see collective bargaining take place and get this thing settled. However, it puts us