

THE DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD CO.,
Denver, Colo., March 18 1965.

Mr. CHARLES LUNA,
*President, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen,
 Cleveland, Ohio.*

DEAR MR. LUNA: This will acknowledge your letter of March 15, suggesting a conference to discuss the crew consist question resulting from the expiration of the terms of Arbitration Award 282 in January 1966.

I do not anticipate that any difficulties will arise on this property regarding this question and believe that it can and will be handled satisfactorily between our Personnel Department and representatives of your organization. For this reason it would not seem that a conference is necessary.

Sincerely,

G. B. AYDELOTT, *President.*

CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY CO.
Chicago, Ill., March 18, 1965.

Mr. CHARLES LUNA,
*President, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen,
 Cleveland, Ohio.*

DEAR MR. LUNA: Thank you for your letter of March 15th regarding the recent agreement between your organization and the representatives of twenty-three Eastern railroads with regard to Arbitration Award No. 282.

Mr. T. M. Van Patten, Director of Personnel, is in charge of labor relations and labor agreements on this property.

From what little we know about your agreement with the Eastern carriers, we on the North Western are not interested; however, Mr. Van Patten will be very glad to discuss this subject with you or your designated representative at a mutually convenient time and date.

Sincerely yours,

C. J. FITZPATRICK, *President.*

Mr. NELSEN. I have no more questions, but I did agree to yield to Mr. Springer if he needed the rest of my time.

Mr. SPRINGER. I think I have asked all the questions I wished.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Blanton.

Mr. BLANTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Keith.

Mr. KEITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have enjoyed reading your statement as well as listening to your additional remarks. I thought your comments were very colorful. You mentioned a letter of agreement between the railroads and the unions to the effect that a dispute must be settled on a national basis.

Do you happen to know what the standing of that letter would be in the eyes of the court?

Mr. LUNA. I know what it was in our case, what our attorneys told it to us to be. I think I should explain. The way we have handled these cases through the years, under the Railway Labor Act our interpretation was that you had to serve the notice on each individual railroad. You had to go through the procedures set up by the act on each individual railroad until an agreement was made between the management that you would appoint a national rule committee and they would appoint one.

They got a pair of attorneys from their railroads and we gave them a pair of attorneys from our committee to make a settlement in the 1959 and 1960 case, that finally resulted in the compulsory arbitration Public Law 88-108. When I took over as president on Janu-