

ary 1, 1963, I tried to get out of the noose that was going around their neck. I tried to bring it back on the individual railroads. They produced a letter that the president ahead of me had agreed that this would be handled on a national basis.

Our attorneys told us that we couldn't get out of it in court and it was tried and we couldn't get out of it because we had agreed to it. I imagine the same thing has happened in the six non-ops.

Mr. KEITH. It does not seem that such a letter is in the public interest, nor does it seem that it should have such opened-ended authority as to continue to have effect.

I would like to have that letter made a matter of record at this point.

Mr. LUNA. Of course, I wouldn't have it. We are not one of these six, Congressman.

Mr. KEITH. But it was something that was used to block your desire to bargain with the individual railroads.

Mr. LUNA. You mean our letter?

Mr. KEITH. Yes; the letter by your predecessor. I would like to have that a matter of record at this point.

Mr. LUNA. I will be glad to. I can get you that.

The CHAIRMAN. Fine.

(The letter requested follows:)

BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN,
Cleveland, Ohio, December 8, 1959.

Letter No. A-7.

*Chairmen, General Grievance Committees,
Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen,
In the United States.*

DEAR SIRs AND BROTHERS: In my letter No. A-5 (corrected), dated November 16, 1959, I stated in part:

"Until further instructions are received from me you should make no connection with management's request that their rule proposals be handled on a national basis."

Enclosed are copies of a form letter which the General Chairman of each railroad should forward to the General Manager or other appropriate officer of the Company on December 21, 1959. The letter you forward to the General Manager or other appropriate officer may be reproduced on stationery of the General Grievance Committee or the enclosed letter may be used with the name, title and the officer of the company upon whom the letter will be directed to be inserted; also the name of the railroad should be inserted in the place provided in the second paragraph of the letter. Of course, the signature of the General Chairman should be affixed. Under no circumstances should the letter be released before December 21, 1959.

It is important that this communication should be forwarded to your Management's representative on December 21, 1959, and it should be signed only by the General Chairman of our Brotherhood.

According to present plans, the General Chairmen of the B. of L. E., B. of L.F. & E. and O.R.C. & B. will forward similar letters to the Management representatives of railroads where they represent employees in the operating groups, but the General Chairmen of each of such organizations will be instructed to forward separate or individual letters. Hence, the necessity for you to forward a separate letter with only your signature affixed. Because the S.U.N.A. had already served counter-proposals, they were not included with the other operating organizations in this procedure.

Strict compliance with these instructions on the part of all concerned is necessary to assure the successful handling of this matter.

Copies of all correspondence passing between General Chairmen and the company officials in regard to this matter must be forwarded promptly to the Presi-