

Mr. IGNATIUS. There was not. The only representatives that were associated with the railroads, as I recall, were Messrs. Fox and Leighty. The CHAIRMAN. Who presented the view of the railroads as to what they could do or could not do?

Mr. IGNATIUS. Of the railroads' operating officials?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. IGNATIUS. There was no presentation by railroad operating officials at the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN. I don't see how you as a member of the Defense Department or the unions could say what the railroads could do. Who represented their views?

Mr. IGNATIUS. There was no representation of the railroads, as such. The only people at the meeting associated with the railroads, as I say, were Messrs. Fox and Leighty.

The CHAIRMAN. We have a list of the gentlemen who were there, and the meeting lasted 50 minutes.

Mr. IGNATIUS. I said about an hour to an hour and 15 minutes, that order of magnitude. It may have been 50 minutes, but it was about an hour.

The CHAIRMAN. And we have the ones who were present.

Mr. Leighty has suggested, I believe, in this meeting, and here before the committee, that this is not nearly as complex as you would have it to be; that the same trains would run on the same railroads but there would be fewer cars, taking all the Defense requirements that were needed, that if there was a partial car it would be right through. Have you heard this suggestion?

Mr. IGNATIUS. Yes. We listened carefully to his views and we raised questions about them.

I must say, as a participant in the meeting, Mr. Chairman, that I do not believe that the proposal that was advanced was a practical or feasible proposal, and to answer questions based upon actual facts by saying, "We don't think that is a problem," I don't believe that that constitutes a workable proposal.

We have very carefully gone over this as have other parts of the Government who have both knowledge and interest in the problem. All of us have concluded that the plan for partial operation advanced by the union representatives is not feasible. Let me say that we welcome their good faith in presenting this plan, and both Secretary Boyd and Secretary Vance commented on this.

But many questions were raised at the meeting which were not satisfactorily answered. We believe that this, together with our own analysis, supports the considered judgment that we have reached; namely, that a plan for partial operation of an industry that undergirds the economy and that is concerned with the process of production as much as it is with transportation, simply is not feasible, and particularly not anything to be considered at a time such as presently confronts us.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you believe in compulsory arbitration?

Mr. IGNATIUS. Sir, I am testifying here, as you suggested, as a representative of the Defense Department, and I am not an expert in the complex labor issues.

The CHAIRMAN. I think you put yourself into it when you endorse this resolution.