

Do you believe in compulsory arbitration?

Mr. IGNATIUS. I do not, sir, based on the knowledge I have as a layman. I do not believe in compulsory arbitration. But, again, I am not testifying as an expert on labor relations matters.

The CHAIRMAN. I am sure of that. I am a little bit amazed that you haven't consulted with the railroads and that they don't give you their opinion about what they can do instead of you making a decision as to what they can do on the railroads.

Mr. Friedel.

Mr. FRIEDEL. Mr. Ignatius, we all realize the importance of the effect a national railway strike would have. You brought out very completely what effect it would have. The thing that distresses me is that you endorse the resolution. You do not condemn management or the unions.

We have been going 47 days and they have not sat down once to try to work this out. I am not going to shirk my duty, and I have my responsibility. But I do believe that they have a responsibility, too, for the defense of our country. They could definitely get together now, right now, and try to work this thing out before any legislation may be passed.

I am afraid what legislation might pass. I haven't any prediction.

One of the things you stress is that it would be economically a hardship on the railroads. Well, it is a hardship on the unions, too. We know they are both going to be the losers if they go on strike. They should get together now and try to work it out. They are not too far apart, as I understand.

I can't stress any stronger that they should start to meet this afternoon, to try to get together and avoid this thing.

Mr. IGNATIUS. Mr. Friedel, I certainly agree with that. I think the parties have an obligation to attempt to reach agreement. Although I am not informed in detail as to the issues, it is my understanding, as is yours, that are areas of difference are not marked and that great progress has been made in narrowing the differences over the record of this controversy.

Certainly it would be better if the parties could reach agreement.

In the absence of that, we must not and cannot have a stoppage of national rail transportation.

Mr. FRIEDEL. What would be better than to try to do it right now? They are going to eventually agree. They can do it now. They are both going to have to give and take. That is how it is supposed to be. I am hoping they do.

I wouldn't want to embarrass you with any questions. Secretary McNamara is not here and I wouldn't want to put you in an awkward position.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Springer?

Mr. SPRINGER. Mr. Secretary, I regret that Mr. McNamara was not able to be here because I think the committee was planning on some very pertinent questions insofar as he was concerned.

May I ask, General, are you in charge of logistics?

General LANE. No, sir.

Mr. SPRINGER. What is your position?

General LANE. I command the Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service. It is an operating agency of the Department of Defense.