

Mr. IGNATIUS. We had given, of course, a great deal of thought and time to this matter before the meeting, as well as subsequent to the meeting. The meeting itself did take approximately an hour, although perhaps 50 minutes is the exact time.

I might mention, Mr. Macdonald, in addition to the telephone calls that I made, there was a telegram sent by Secretary Vance, signed by Secretary Vance, on the 13th of May to Mr. Fox and Mr. Leighty advising them of the meeting. My phone calls were in connection with that.

Mr. MACDONALD. That still doesn't get around the point as to why, if there is a dispute, and one side is to be heard with a proposal, why the other side is not there to say why they think it can't be done.

By your very figures you say that of all the railroad traffic, only 5 percent is defense related. I was very surprised to hear that figure. If only 5 percent of the rail traffic of this Nation is defense related, I don't see why it couldn't be possible to accept the idea put forth by the Brotherhoods that they could say, "If this is needed, we will let it go through."

Mr. IGNATIUS. They certainly offered to be cooperative and we thanked them for that. The problems in accomplishing this, I think, Mr. Macdonald, were addressed in Secretary McNamara's statement, which I read.

We gave serious and careful thought to their proposal, examined it in detail, and concluded that it was not feasible.

Mr. MACDONALD. My last question, Mr. Chairman.

When did you turn down the proposition—at the end of the 50 minutes?

Mr. IGNATIUS. Mr. Vance, at the end of the meeting, stated that in his judgment—and Secretary Boyd also made a similar statement—

Mr. MACDONALD. He had made the same statement here to questions I asked a week beforehand, and he hadn't seen the proposal at that time.

Mr. IGNATIUS. Secretary Vance stated at the conclusion of the meeting that the proposal did appear to be infeasible and not a practical solution to the problem which faced us. He so informed them.

Mr. MACDONALD. This is based, by the Defense Department on 50 minutes of conversation with just one side to the dispute?

Mr. IGNATIUS. Sir, the meeting that you referred to was of approximately that length, but a great deal of work went on prior to the meeting to consider the proposal that had been described and its implications.

Mr. MACDONALD. I have said before, and I will say again, that I don't think that the brotherhoods' proposal to move these goods in a time of emergency has been given thorough consideration.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Devine?

Mr. DEVINE. Mr. Chairman, I was unavoidably detained this morning. I would like to reserve my right to question at a later point.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Jarman?

Mr. JARMAN. Mr. Chairman, I have no questions at this time, but I will state for the record that I think the McNamara-Wheeler statements that have been read this morning are clear, effective, and compelling logic on this problem that we all face.

Thank you.