

I think the administrative, the technical, the financial problems, management problems, overall, of managing a limited operation renders such a plan infeasible.

Therefore, if the purport of your comment is that power would be vested to operate the railroads on a partial basis, I would say that there would be difficult problems in the extreme in insuring that this could be done and that the national defense needs could be met.

Mr. DINGELL. The purport of my question is, if we gave you power to move essential shipments, could you do it?

Mr. IGNATIUS. The problem we would have is identifying what is essential to the national defense and then insuring the movement of those goods.

Mr. DINGELL. I would assume that the power to order movement of essential shipments would also include the power to identify essential shipments.

Mr. IGNATIUS. Yes, sir; that power would have to exist. But having been vested with that power, the problem of carrying it out in a meaningful way—

Mr. DINGELL. If you have authority to issue regulations to do two things, one, to identify, and, two, to move, could you do the job?

Mr. IGNATIUS. The problem we would face would be the problem of identifying. Although the power was vested, how would we identify a particular shipment of cardboard that represented cardboard associated with packaging munitions as opposed to cardboard that wasn't?

This is an extremely different job and would take a long period of time to effect.

Mr. DINGELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Broyhill.

Mr. BROYHILL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just wanted to thank the Secretary and General Meyer and General Lane for bringing the statements of Secretary McNamara and General Wheeler to the attention of the committee.

I think they have been forthright statements, bringing vital information that the committee needs.

I believe this information is based upon your experience and judgment, and have stated the facts that you feel the committee should have.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Rogers.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary, I, too, feel that the statement you read for Secretary McNamara is very clear. I don't know why anyone has difficulty in understanding the problem you would have in trying to separate defense-oriented and nondefense. I think it is very clear.

Tell me this: Has the Middle East situation which has developed put any greater urgency on the fact that we should not have a national strike?

Mr. IGNATIUS. Mr. Rogers, I am sure you appreciate my inability to comment on the Middle Eastern situation in any detail.

I would simply say that the unknowns associated with the situation in the Middle East, certainly adds a dimension to the problem.

In short, our situation is different in the sense that there are some unknowns created by the current situation in the Middle East.