

discussion; namely, was it feasible to have a plan of partial operation, was not, in fact, a practical or feasible solution to the problem. View-points on this were expressed by Secretary Vance; Secretary Boyd made a comment to this effect; Under Secretary of Labor Reynolds, who was at the meeting, raised a number of questions which brought out the inability to differentiate between what is essential to the defense and what isn't.

There was one series of questions I recall Mr. Reynolds raising in connection with this. I would certainly say that it was the sense of the meeting that a plan of partial operation of an industry so closely integrated with the national economy, particularly at a time such as the present, was not feasible.

Mr. BROTZMAN. At this meeting, since time has been raised as an issue, was anyone foreclosed from presenting anything they had to say relative to this proposal?

Mr. IGNATIUS. Not to my knowledge. It seemed to me that anyone who wanted to say something was free to do so. I spoke up several times, and others did.

The meeting, it seemed to me, lasted as long as it was necessary to last. All of the people there, including the union representatives, were busy people, but I think all of us were prepared to spend as much time as was needed.

In fact, only 50 minutes to an hour was spent. But, as I recall, sir, there was no desire or, in fact, any effort made to keep anybody from saying whatever he wanted to say. There was quite good, general discussion.

Mr. BROTZMAN. It would be your position that there was a full presentation of the proposition?

Mr. IGNATIUS. First, we had had some idea of what was involved prior to the meeting and had devoted considerable time to analyzing this prior to the meeting.

At the meeting itself, Mr. Vance stated some views, the union representatives commented on them, we raised a number of discerning questions as to how this would work, they responded, and it seemed to me on the basis of the work we had already done, buttressed by the discussions we had had and the opportunity to hear in person from Messrs. Fox and Leighty, that we had sufficient information in order to form the judgment that we did; namely, that this was not a feasible or practical solution to the problem.

Mr. BROTZMAN. Did you so state at that particular time or was your answer delayed?

Mr. IGNATIUS. Mr. Vance pointed out at the meeting that he did not regard the plan as being feasible. He stated that it had a number of unknowns associated with it, and that certainly he could not chance the risk to the Nation's defense and welfare if the proposal didn't work out. This was stated by Mr. Vance at the meeting.

It is my recollection that similar statements in respect to the judgment that the plan was impractical were made by Secretary Boyd.

Mr. BROTZMAN. I thank you, Mr. Secretary.

I have no further questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Pickle.

Mr. PICKLE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary, the gist of the questioning this morning seems to me to revolve around the question of whether the railroads had sat in on