

Mr. IGNATIUS. I cannot speak for Mr. McNamara on this point. I did state as my personal view that I would be opposed to compulsory arbitration, but that is not necessarily a departmental position.

Mr. WATKINS. Do you have any other view, in view of that, that you could get the railroads and the labor unions together?

Mr. IGNATIUS. In the absence of an agreement such as Mr. Friedel mentioned earlier, it would seem to me that the best solution I am aware of is the request that the President has made for the joint resolution that lies before the committee.

Mr. WATKINS. I am aware of where you stand on the President's recommendation.

You also made the statement that you didn't think the traffic could be handled where 5 percent of it is covered by the rails. It is about 12 days away, but have you gone into the common carriage vehicles to be used for this? The trucks are regulated, of course. They can only go on certain roads and certain highways. But has that been checked through the Interstate Commerce Commission to handle the Government shipments?

Mr. IGNATIUS. I am not sure I understand the question. Perhaps General Lane understands it.

General LANE. Yes, I understand the question.

Nothing specific has been done. This, of course, is an ICC prerogative.

Mr. WATKINS. Why haven't steps been taken, assuming that there will be a strike? The way it looks here, if there is no legislation there will be a strike.

General LANE. Because the capacity of the trucking industry cannot take care of the load that would be thrust upon it by the stoppage of the rails.

Mr. WATKINS. I don't agree with you on that. Have you figures to back that up?

General LANE. Roughly 50 percent of the carriage in the country is truck, and 50 percent is rail. Neither can carry the load of the other.

Mr. WATKINS. I disagree with you. I think they could. But you would have to release the regulations so that a carrier, perhaps, would only run from Boston to Alexandria, Va., and he would be allowed to go to Miami and California. I think you should look into that, General.

General LANE. This would be done in specific instances. We work very closely with the ICC.

Mr. WATKINS. Let's not wait until the last day.

General LANE. Correct.

Mr. WATKINS. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Ottinger?

Mr. OTTINGER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary, I can understand fully your coming before us and expressing your opinion as to the drastic effects on our defense posture and our defense organization if a nationwide railway strike occurred.

I cannot see, however, how you can maintain a position supporting the particular solution represented in the bill. You say you are not going to take a position with respect to labor-management disputes. Do you have anything against our resolving this by providing for seizure of the railroads?