

Mr. BROWN. Let me ask one other question, if I may.

The arguments you have advanced for the inability of the country at this time, in such a position as we find ourselves with regard to Vietnam and the concern over the events in the Mideast, with reference to the rail situation, might also be applicable to other labor-management disputes in other industries.

Mr. IGNATIUS. We don't have any situation on the horizon that I am familiar with that poses the kind of problem that a national stoppage of the rail system would pose.

Mr. BROWN. Would a maritime strike pose a problem as it relates to the rail?

Mr. IGNATIUS. That would be a very serious problem, Mr. Brown. But we believe that in a maritime strike it might be feasible to insure the partial operations, so to speak, in order to insure the movement of defense cargoes. We have had experiences of that kind in the past with the maritime unions and they have agreed to move essential defense cargoes. Secretary McNamara's statement which I read addressed this point. The problem is a lot simpler in that case than in the partial operation of the railroads.

Mr. BROWN. If I may put one final thought or question, it seems to me that it is only a relative matter when you suggest the country's defense posture cannot take a rail strike, both because of its effect on the economy and its effect on our national defense, related to the possibility of a maritime strike, a steel strike, something that would affect the power resources of our country or communications.

I make this point because we have had earlier testimony that we can't afford to take this strike because it would have an adverse effect on our national economy.

All of these other industries that I mentioned would have some degree of an adverse effect on our national economy and I gather some degree of an adverse effect on our national defense posture. It seems to me that we are getting ourselves into the position; that is, the administration is getting itself into a position, of saying that we cannot afford strikes in a rather wide number of industries.

Therefore, we have, I think, an obligation, the administration does, and perhaps the Congress does, to try to find some means of resolving these nationwide strikes that are so critical both to our economy and our defense posture.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Blanton?

Mr. BLANTON. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Kuykendall?

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Secretary, I want to thank you for an excellent statement as to the effect a strike would have on the national defense effort.

To prevent this, I know, is the reason that you are here. I would like to take most of my time, since I hope this is one of the last of the many hearings that will be required to come to some kind of conclusion, in joining with Mr. Friedel and Mr. Watson in expressing very deep displeasure and resentment at the inactivity of both parties since April 25.

In the face of the world conditions as they are today, I do not believe that the two parties in this strike have any right to expect the Congress to save collective bargaining. But only they can save collective bargaining.