

Mr. ADAMS. We have under the present legislation and what we are contemplating now. They have no ability to do anything except, at this point, one of two things, both of which have been discussed this morning: One is to bargain; or the other is to accept the decision of a third party; in other words, arbitration.

They have already rejected the arbitration and stated they would rather bargain than arbitrate. Mr. Wolfe and I have had exchanges before this committee, and from those I am convinced the railroads' position is that they want the dispute arbitrated. The union's position is that they want it bargained.

I ask you which is your position?

Mr. GREENOUGH. My position is that we would far rather bargain this proposition out, as we have done with 75 percent of our employees.

Mr. ADAMS. When was the last time you met in a bargaining session?

Mr. GREENOUGH. I don't attend those sessions.

Mr. ADAMS. Do you know when the last time your representatives did?

Mr. GREENOUGH. Not specifically.

Mr. ADAMS. On page 4 you say this: "Preferably I think this should be provided for on a permanent basis so as to avoid laying these problems on the doorstep of Congress repeatedly."

Just before that, you say the third approach is to provide for a binding determination by a neutral board appointed by the President after collective bargaining has failed to achieve a settlement.

Is that not your statement on page 4, that you favor binding determination and that as long as you take the position, "We are not moving any further with bargaining," then you drive us to the position of having to go to arbitration. Isn't that correct?

Mr. GREENOUGH. Only after all other avenues have failed, Mr. Adams.

Mr. ADAMS. But if you take the position you won't bargain any further, where else do we go?

Mr. GREENOUGH. We have never taken that position. We will bargain now, today, this afternoon.

Mr. ADAMS. Then I would also request the Chair that as this voluntary arbitration matter is considered, it also be stated that the parties meet in a bargaining session and state their offers and why they can't agree so that bargaining would start again as well as possible arbitration.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. FRIEDEL (presiding). Mr. Watson?

Mr. WATSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Frankly, I share the sentiments of the gentleman from California when he states that although we had a little optimistic note a moment ago, I don't think all of us can pack our bags and figure that we are going to escape this responsibility. But hope springs eternal, and I guess I am a natural born optimist.

So that we might lay the groundwork here in the event you do get together on voluntary arbitration, I have a few questions.