

Mr. FRIEDEL. Mr. Watkins?

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

I would like to welcome a fellow Pennsylvanian, Mr. Greenough. In Pennsylvania we respect him as a very fine executive, a man who really knows how to operate a railroad.

I have listened with great interest. I notice that you have taken no part in the bargaining but that Mr. Wolfe has, representing the railroads. I listened with great interest to my colleagues, Mr. Devine, Mr. Rogers, and the others.

Many of the things I would think would be repetitious. I would like to say this: I don't believe personally if you used two Georgia mules that you would get back to talking.

The thing that is amazing to me is this: That all of these days have gone by and you have completely disregarded the last act that we passed. Now we only have a few days to go.

I understand the Senate has already come to some conclusion on a bill. We have pleaded all along to go back to bargaining. I don't think if you put Georgia mules pulling each side that we would get you back.

I recall in 1943 the railroads were seized. Three years later, in 1946, they were seized. In 1948, 2 years later, and in 1950 they were seized. Of course, I realize under the law we can't force you back to the bargaining table. You make the boys in the union look bad today because it is your day to testify. They had their day.

But I just can't believe that you didn't mean to disregard the act that we passed here. I would like to ask you a question.

In your statement, you have said that you are not familiar with the negotiations.

Mr. Wolfe, I will ask you this: Is there any way that the Labor Department might have helped in this passage of time? Have you been called and asked to sit down and discuss your differences? Is this something that we are wasting time on?

I remember being called at my home by the committee to make sure that I would be here at 9 o'clock on a Monday morning. I live pretty close, 1 hour and 45 minutes from the Capitol.

I would like to know, have you been instructed? Has anybody with the powers of the Labor Department or the great White House taken any interest in the public, other than asking us to pass a bill? Have they talked to you at all about this thing to try to get you together?

Mr. WOLFE. Shall I answer your question?

Mr. WATKINS. Yes.

Mr. WOLFE. Yes. We have had frequent discussions with Members of Congress—

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Wolfe—

Mr. WOLFE. I will answer your question, Mr. Watkins, if you permit me to.

We have talked, we have been in constant touch, with the Department of Labor, particularly with the Under Secretary, Mr. Reynolds.

We have not had direct contact with the White House.

Mr. WATKINS. Has the Department of Labor asked you to go back to talking?

Mr. WOLFE. They have not asked for the full committees to meet. They have not.