

Mr. PRINCE. There are related decisions, Mr. Kornegay, but I couldn't say they deal precisely with this issue.

For instance, the situation that grew out of the Montgomery Ward situation, in which the railroads were prevented as a practical matter from serving Montgomery Ward, there was a strike taking place on their property as a result of a dispute with their employees.

So the difficulty is not quite the same as the one you are addressing yourself to.

But in that situation, the railroads were held to have an obligation to serve, and this strike did not excuse them from that obligation. I don't think the matter is clearly settled as to the extent of any right we have to lock out.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Colorado, Mr. Brotzman.

Mr. BROTZMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Referring to your statement, Mr. Greenough, you state on page 1 and the top of page 2 that negotiations on behalf of about 200 railroads are conducted by the National Railway Labor Conference, headed by Mr. J. E. Wolfe, and the negotiating committees to whom powers of attorney have been given by those railroads.

If I can, I would like to direct a question first of all to Mr. Wolfe.

Is this a true statement, Mr. Wolfe, relative to your authority in these proceedings?

Mr. WOLFE. Yes; that is a correct statement. May I add just a word?

There are members of the carrier conference committees from each of the regions, and we work together.

Mr. BROTZMAN. Would you have authority to proceed to sit down with your counterpart in the shop craft unions today?

Mr. WOLFE. An individual on that side of the table?

Mr. BROTZMAN. Let us say "your counterparts." I will amend my question.

Mr. WOLFE. Yes; we have authority to sit down. I have authority to deal with a spokesman of that union if that seems to be advisable.

Mr. BROTZMAN. Since you are on the stand and I don't have a shop craft official here, I might ask you, from your experience in these negotiations, is there a counterpart representing them that you can negotiate with?

Mr. WOLFE. An individual?

Mr. BROTZMAN. An individual.

Mr. WOLFE. There is not.

Mr. BROTZMAN. What is the structure and how would they proceed to negotiate today?

Mr. WOLFE. Well, an effort was made by a very distinguished Member of the House to bring about a meeting between a spokesman for the unions and myself.

I agreed to do that. That is all during this 49-day period, by the way. But we discovered that the person representing the unions made it clear that he could not discuss anything substantive.

Mr. BROTZMAN. I understand if there are going to be negotiations that are meaningful and in good faith, obviously the people who enter into the negotiations must be cloaked with the proper authority to proceed.