

Senator JAVITS. Does the administration really expect to have a troublesome period of labor disputes this year which could be disruptive to the economy?

Secretary WIRTZ. I don't know how to answer that question helpfully. I hope I reflected it already. I have a feeling it is a matter that must be watched very carefully and it is being. It is surely being watched with the hope that every one of those cases will work out privately. But it is—we are not sitting back and assuming that nothing can happen.

Senator JAVITS. In the 1966 Economic Report, the statement was made as follows:

The recent transit strike in New York City illustrates our helplessness in preventing extreme disruption of the lives and livelihoods of a city of 8 million people. I intend to ask Congress to consider measures that without improperly invading State and local authority, will enable us to deal with strikes that may cause irreparable damage to the national interest.

That was on page 17 of the 1966 Economic Report of the President. Now, in 1967, not a word about emergency strike legislation.

Will you tell us, Mr. Secretary, whether the administration thinks it is no longer necessary to consider what it proposed to consider in 1966 and if it does consider it still necessary what does it intend to do about it?

Secretary WIRTZ. I will answer the first question, that interpretation would not be permissible and I'm not in a position to answer the second, because it is a matter which, as I say, the administration has before it in a formal sense and you would appreciate my inability at this point to speak to that.

Senator JAVITS. When do you think we may expect an answer from the administration on this subject? Is there any time fixed?

Secretary WIRTZ. I couldn't without sparring with you by helpful on that and there is not a time fixed.

Senator JAVITS. Do you think we in the Congress would be right or wrong in trying to fix a time?

As you know, Senator Morse and I and many others have moved in this matter and I have no—personally I have no particular desire to press that resolution, which incidentally the Senate has passed three times in other legislation, but I would like to lay before you the proposition that we ought to know.

This is a critically important aspect of the U.S. posture to meet the contingencies of, let us say, a national trucking strike.

May I therefore ask, Mr. Secretary, with the Chair's permission, should the administration choose to make a statement upon this subject, and I hope and pray—I have no desire to do anything but find out what it has in its mind—I ask unanimous consent that should the administration choose to make such a statement that it may be made part of Secretary Wirtz' statement?

Chairman PROXMIRE. Without objection.

Senator JAVITS. Mr. Secretary, I agree with you, there is no use in sparring and I admire you for your frankness. Mr. Chairman, it is understood that I cannot hold up the printing of the record but I assume the administration will let us know and if they do not file, then certainly they do not want to.