

Mr. MACDONALD. Do you happen to know the position of the national organization?

Mr. FORTNER. Yes, I know it very well. Mr. Biemiller and all of them are aware of my testifying here. But, you see, I checked with my people—

Mr. MACDONALD. I understand that. You would not get elected unless you did.

Mr. FORTNER. Could I answer your question?

Mr. MACDONALD. You have not answered my question.

Mr. FORTNER. I am fixing to right now. I checked with my people, and that is what I get paid to do. Now, as far as the national AFL-CIO's position, I do not know, have any knowledge whatsoever of any representative consulting or checking with the affiliates of the AFL-CIO before they assumed their position.

Mr. MACDONALD. Do you know what the national, if I can use that term because I guess you represent—are you an international representative?

Mr. FORTNER. I am not an international representative. I am business manager for System Council U-4 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which is affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

Mr. MACDONALD. Right. Now, as an affiliate of the national AFL-CIO, do you happen to know how they feel about this?

Mr. FORTNER. Yes, sir. They are opposed to this bill. They are 180° out from my membership. The Florida Electrical Workers, which is approximately 15,000 electrical workers in the State of Florida, as I say in my testimony the Florida Electrical Workers did have the bill, they discussed it, debated it, and voted unanimously to support this bill and related bills. They are also affiliated.

Mr. MACDONALD. If I could just ask—and I see I am more deeply into this than I intended, and perhaps Mr. Brotzman will have some other questions—but why? You know, it is very unusual to have any labor union vote unanimously about anything, as far as I can tell, because we have many disputes that come before us that involve labor, such as the railroad strikes and other things of that nature, and the votes by the unions are never unanimous.

Mr. FORTNER. That is a very true statement in most cases, but this can be documented from the records of the Florida Electrical Workers.

Mr. MACDONALD. I am sure it is true. I am not questioning the fact that it is true. But I was just asking for the reason. Why do you think it is true?

Mr. FORTNER. Why do I think it is true?

Mr. MACDONALD. Yes.

Mr. FORTNER. Well, No. 1, I think it will be true because all the knowledge and information that we have is that we have an elected regulatory body in Florida which the evidence will show has done a good job and looked out for the customers and, I might say, the consumers, a lot of them are union members. Now, we presented it. We did not flower it up. People in Florida just do not care too much about any more Federal regulation than is necessary.

Mr. MACDONALD. You think it is done on the basis of States rights, which was mentioned here?

Mr. FORTNER. No, I do not; not from my position it is not, certainly.