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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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CHEYENNE JEWELL REPUBLIC
CLARK KEARNY ROOKS
CLOUD KIOWA RUSH
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CONGRESSMAN DOLE REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON FOR RELEASE: WEEK OF JULY 24, 1967

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION POOR SOLUTION TO LABOR DISPUTES

The so-called "emergency rail strike bill" signed into law July 17, 1967, may mean the current rail dispute will be settled, either voluntarily or under compulsion but halting the strike in this manner may have set a precedent for lawmakers and the nation for years to come. There will be other strikes; and this new law, effective only in this case, will do absolutely nothing to deal with them.

The bill provides for possible Government-imposed settlement of the wage dispute through Presidential appointment of a board empowered to dictate terms for settling the dispute after 90 days of mediation and fact-finding. In other words, the bill provides for "compulsory arbitration."

In his January 1966 state of the union message, the President stated he would ask Congress "to consider measures which, without improperly invading state and local authority, will enable us effectively to deal with strikes which threaten irreparable damage to the national interest." In his message to Congress on July 17, 1967 he said, "There comes a time when the public interest must be paramount over private interests." Despite these two pronouncements, nothing has come of them. It appears to many the President is backing away from taking any responsible leadership in this crucial matter because of the 1968 election.

Permanent Solution Needed

Measures dealing with strikes must go beyond haphazard temporizing. A suggested solution I favor is a new judicial system of labor courts with jurisdiction solely over industrial strife, including strikes. The American public is anxious for a decision to end the needless economic waste resulting from strikes. I have repeatedly opposed and voted against "compulsion" in farm programs, compulsory unionism, compulsory "open" housing, and compulsion in other government programs. Consistent with this and because the rail strike bill fails to offer a lasting solution, I voted, "No."

MIDEAST MISSION

On June 29, 1967, the House passed a resolution authorizing three members of the Subcommittee on Foreign Agricultural Operations to visit the Middle East. The purpose of the trip is to enable the Agriculture Committee to better judge the food needs of the area and the proper part which should be played by the United States in meeting these needs. As ranking Republican on the Subcommittee, I joined Subcommittee Chairman Paul C. Jones (D-Mo.) and Congressman Eligio De La Garza (D-Tex.) on the 8-day investigation which began on July 20, 1967.