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said he opposed compulsory arbitration in any form, praised the White House plan as "a fair and statesmanlike solution . . . it is fair, it is just. It is new and unique." And he added that "it will do the job."

Senator Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.), who has advocated broader anti-strike legislation, called it a "reasonable proposal, a reasonable course of action for Congress to adopt." But he added, "I do not understand the difference between mediation to finality and compulsory arbitration."

**Added support.** Senator Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.), an outspoken exponent of new legislation to handle emergency disputes, said he would probably back the Presidential railroad bill. He said, however, that he was still prepared to battle later on for changes in the Taft-Hartley and Railway Labor Acts. He is strongly in favor of "limited seizure" in emergency disputes.

In his message to Congress in support of his legislative proposal, the President did not commit himself on the subject of broader legislation except to say: "We must take this action now, as we continue and renew our search for a just and general solution to emergency strike or lock-out problems in this country."

With hearings on the rail legislation opening this week before the House Commerce Committee and a Senate labor subcommittee, supporters of the Presidential proposal hoped to move it quickly through Congress. Senator Ralph Yarborough (D-Tex.), chairman of the Senate labor subcommittee, said he would seek to avoid the subject of permanent anti-strike legislation in the hearings, but he indicated that the President's plan would not have easy sailing. "I would be very much surprised if this legislation passes without any change," he said.

**Mixed feelings.** In the House, Minority Leader Gerald Ford (R-Mich.) said he saw in the Administration proposal "an element of compulsory arbitration" and that Congress should "explore other alternatives." Representative Carl Albert (D-Okla.), representing the House leadership, termed the plan an "effective, equitable, and enterprising formula."

Opposition to the Presidential proposal was likely to center on organized labor's position that it is, in effect, compulsory arbitration.

But in the early stages of Congressional debate, the Administration appeared to have won support for its approach—even if in the end Congress does not buy it entirely in its original form.

## Labor briefs

**AFL-CIO President George Meany** denied as "a damn lie" newly published reports that the Central Intelligence Agency channeled funds to AFL, and later to AFL-CIO, for anti-Communist labor activities abroad. "I take great pride in the work we've done overseas and I resent the fact that CIA is trying to horn in on it," Meany said. To his knowledge, he added, the federations "never received any CIA money . . . directly or indirectly." Walter Reuther conceded that the United Auto Workers got \$50,000 from CIA to help West German unions in the early 1950s, but he said, "We did it just once and we felt very bad about having done it."

The trucking industry's settlement price for a contract with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters went up last weekend to 78¢ an hour over three years—25¢ now, 15¢ more in 1968 and 1969, up to 8¢ in cost-of-living increases if prices go up, and fringe gains. Earlier, IBT's rank and file gave lukewarm approval (52,625 to 45,363) to a 60.55¢ to 70.55¢ package but IBT went back to the bargaining table because of the lightness of the vote (hardly 20%) and continuing disputes in Chicago [BW May 6'67, p158].

Electricians in West Coast shipyards, working under a Taft-Hartley anti-strike injunction since Mar. 2, will stay on the job after the ban runs out this month. A "procedural agreement" rules out a stoppage at least until July 1. Factfinders will recommend settlement terms by June 10 and the parties will resume negotiations. They're not bound to accept the terms, and a strike is possible again in July.

A federal court in Richmond, Va., has ruled that a crippled miner is entitled to disability benefits even if he works as a dishwasher at \$150 a month. The miner had been denied payments because he took a job he could do. The court commended him for working despite his disability, ordered benefits paid.

Rubber strikes aren't having serious impact yet, according to primary customers of three major companies shut down by the United Rubber Workers. The tiremakers are moving out stockpiled tires, still have a 30- to 45-day supply. But a pinch may develop from shortages of molded rubber products. Meanwhile, there's no apparent progress in negotiations.