

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President announced today the creation of a Presidential Emergency Board No. 186 to investigate and report respecting the current dispute between employees of the nation's railroads represented by the Brotherhood of Railway, Airline & Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees and the National Railway Labor Conference, after determining that the dispute could not be resolved prior to the announced strike date set by the union for 12:01 AM Friday, April 18, 1975.

Named as chairman of the board was Alexander B. Porter, attorney and labor arbitrator from Washington, D.C.; named as members were James M. Harkless, attorney and labor arbitrator from Washington, D.C., and Reverend Francis X. Quinn of the School of Business Administration, Temple University and labor arbitrator from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This dispute threatens a shutdown of the nation's railroads. Consequently, the President invoked the Emergency Board procedures of the Railway Labor Act, which in part provides that the Board will report its findings to the President by May 16, 1975. The parties must then consider the findings of the Emergency Board and endeavor to resolve their differences without engaging in self-help during a subsequent 30-day period.

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