

The original documents are located in Box 19, “11/3/75 - Talking Points: Telephone Call to the Federal Mediation Meeting” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

TALKING POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT

*+ consultation level
17 Summary*

TELEPHONE CALL TO THE FEDERAL MEDIATION MEETING

ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1975

290 minutes.

1. WHEN BILL USERY ASKED ME TO SET ASIDE A FEW MINUTES TO TALK WITH YOU, I ACCEPTED WITH PLEASURE. MY ONE REGRET IS THAT I'M NOT ABLE TO BE IN NEW ORLEANS WITH YOU. AFTER THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS, I KNOW I WOULD FIND IT COMFORTING TO BE IN A ROOM FILLED WITH PEACEMAKERS.

2. I COMMEND YOU FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS THE
MEDIATION SERVICE MAKES DAILY TO LABOR-MANAGEMENT PEACE.
EACH STRIKE YOU PREVENT -- EACH STRIKE THAT IS ENDED
EARLY BECAUSE OF YOUR GOOD WORK -- STRENGTHENS OUR
SYSTEM OF ECONOMIC LIBERTY.

THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS IS STILL THE BEST MEANS
FOR LABOR AND MANAGEMENT TO FAIRLY SHARE THE FRUITS OF
THEIR INVESTMENT IN TIME, TALENT AND MONEY.

3. WHEN I WAS WITH BILL EARLIER THIS YEAR AT THE COMING-OUT CEREMONY FOR A STAMP ISSUED IN HONOR OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, I NOTED THAT HISTORY HAS SHOWN THAT ONLY WHERE THERE IS FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IS THERE A FREE SOCIETY.

SO IN A VERY REAL SENSE, AS YOU DEDICATE YOURSELVES
TO ENDING THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN LABOR AND MANAGEMENT,
YOU ARE REINFORCING FREEDOM IN AMERICA.

4. THE ABILITY OF OUR PEOPLE TO WRESTLE WITH TOUGH PROBLEMS AND TO FIND ANSWERS THAT WILL BENEFIT THEMSELVES AND THE NATION IS A HALLMARK OF OUR REPUBLIC. NOTHING HAS BEEN MORE IMPORTANT TO US DURING THE ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES OF THE PAST FEW YEARS THAN STABLE LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS.

THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES
IN THE WORLD TO BE SPARED PROLONGED, NATIONWIDE STRIKES
IN KEY INDUSTRIES IS A TRIBUTE TO YOU, BILL, AND TO
YOUR TEAM OF PEACEMAKERS.

5. I KNOW THAT EACH OF YOU HAS BEEN REQUIRED TO CARRY A HEAVIER CASELOAD AND TO DEAL WITH A CONSTANTLY EXPANDING RANGE OF ISSUES.

I ALSO KNOW YOU HAVE DISPLAYED THE INITIATIVE AND
AGGRESSIVENESS NEEDED TO CARRY OUT YOUR OBLIGATIONS --
THAT YOU HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THE
MEDIATION PROCESS, TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED AND TO IMPROVE THE
FUNCTIONS OF ARBITRATION.

6. I AM CONFIDENT YOU WILL FIND A WAY TO DO
STILL MORE AS WE ENTER OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR. OUR
200TH BIRTHDAY AS A NATION COMES AT A CRITICAL TIME --
AT A TIME WHEN A NUMBER OF MAJOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
AGREEMENTS WILL BE RENEGOTIATED.

BY SUCCEEDING, YOU WILL HELP CREATE A NEW CENTURY OF
PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY FOR AMERICA.

7. BILL, I THANK YOU AND YOUR FINE STAFF FOR
ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO PROMOTE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PEACE.
YOU HAVE MY FULL SUPPORT IN PROVIDING THIS ESSENTIAL
SERVICE.

END OF TEXT