

The original documents are located in Box 14, folder “Labor - Dunlop and Usery” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: L. WILLIAM SEIDMAN *LWS*

SUBJECT: Release of the Labor-Management
Committee Housing Proposals

The Labor-Management Committee submitted to you yesterday a series of five proposals to stimulate the housing industry. They also requested that you make public their recommendations.

Secretary Dunlop strongly urges that you comply with the Labor-Management Committee's request and make public the Committee's housing recommendations. Secretary Hills strongly recommends that the Labor-Management Committee recommendations not be released on the grounds that releasing the recommendations will:

1. Intensify pressure group and additional congressional activity in support of them.
2. Increase public awareness of the policy differences between HUD and the OMB on the Tandem Plan, the Section 202, and the Section 802 programs.
3. Leave the appearance, if the proposals are adopted, that the principal impetus came from the Labor-Management Committee and not from housing industry groups. These same proposals have been advanced to members of the Administration by a number of other special interest groups without being made public.

You were originally scheduled to meet with the National Association of Home Builders on October 20. The meeting was postponed and has been tentatively rescheduled for the week of November 17. I am informed that the Home Builders are expected to make a number of



similar recommendations to you, including urging implementation of the GNMA Tandem Plan authorization (Labor-Management Committee Recommendation No. 1) and implementation of the Section 802 program (Labor-Management Committee Recommendation No. 4).

The Labor-Management Committee's Recommendations 1, 2, and 4 are proposals that are presently under consideration by HUD, OMB, and the Domestic Council in the budget process and are ready for presentation to you during your discussion of the HUD budget, which is scheduled for the week of November 10. A report on the status of each of these recommendations is attached at Tab A.

Jim Lynn, Alan Greenspan, and Jim Cannon concur in Secretary Hills' recommendation that you withhold release of the Labor-Management Committee housing recommendations until after you have reviewed each of these proposals in the budget process.

January 9, 1976

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF LABOR JOHN T. DUNLOP

Yesterday's action by the labor members of the Collective Bargaining Committee in Construction comes as no surprise. It is unfortunate that the high promise of joint cooperation of labor and management in this industry through the Committee is not now possible.

In my testimony before the House and Senate in June and July of last year, I expressed the hope that the discussions over the proposed legislation on common situs picketing and on collective bargaining arrangements in construction would be carried out in a way not to exacerbate industrial relations in the industry. I implored all interested parties to conduct the discussion and the resolution of these sensitive issues factually, dispassionately, realistically, and in tolerance and good humor.

I fear that the shrill and emotional pressures of the past few months have now destroyed for a period the possibility of continued labor-management cooperation at the national level on a construction industry-wide basis. "At some future time the Nation's interests, as well as those of this industry, require a resumption of such a committee for constructive collective bargaining discussions and activities."



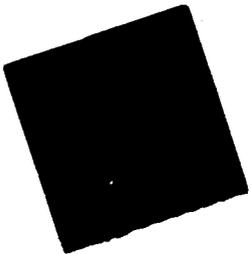
Ron

January 14, 1976

Second Statement of Secretary John C. Dunlop

I have not resigned in protest of the veto of the Construction bill; rather, I have resigned because since the veto an atmosphere and a set of attitudes has developed, and is likely to persist, that seems to me to preclude constructive and cooperative policies and administration in the fields of concern generally to the Labor Department.

It has been the detailed assessment of possibilities and attitudes for the year ahead that have taken the time, not any reflection over my inner feelings.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Jan. 14, 1976

John:

The attached statement will be given to our press regulars this morning and is provided for your information.

We'll start the press session at about 10:15, per our discussion, and terminate at 11:00.

I'll let you know how the briefing goes.

Dick



January 14, 1976

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY JOHN T. DUNLOP

A year ago this week when President Ford invited me to be Secretary of Labor, I asked what he wished to have accomplished in this cabinet post. He responded that his first priority for this area was a restoration of communications between the labor movement and the President and his Administration and the related access to the constructive joint contributions of labor and management to help resolve the serious economic problems engulfing the country. This objective, together with the opportunity for improvement of many of the Department's programs, appealed to me, for they reflected a life-long professional interest.

In labor-management relations a sense of trust, confidence and respect is essential for any genuine communications among labor, management and government. These attitudes do not preclude, indeed they permit and encourage, honest differences of view strongly expressed.

Since December 22nd, I have consulted widely with labor and management leaders, as in January 1975, regarding the prospects for constructive developments in the labor-management field with the government and in the areas of responsibility of the Department of Labor. It is my sober conclusion from these discussions that attitudes have been significantly



affected and that the requisite communications, confidence and trust, is no longer possible, at least with me in the post of Secretary of Labor. Accordingly, I have submitted my resignation. My decision reflects a professional judgment as to what, practically can and cannot be achieved this year.

I regret these developments, in part because of the number of able people who have come to work with the Department with different expectations, and in part because of the foregone opportunities for long-term constructive work on international labor affairs, regulatory improvement, labor-management relations in several industries and programs in employment and training.

My deep concern is that the internal processes of both political parties not impair the country's capacity for effective self-government for yet another critical year.

I have expressed to the President my view that his willingness to listen to divergent views and his numerous courtesies to me, I shall always cherish.



JANUARY 14, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND JOHN DUNLOP, SECRETARY OF LABOR

January 14, 1976

Dear John:

It was with the deepest regret that I received your letter of January 13, 1976, indicating your decision to resign as Secretary of Labor and Coordinator of the President's Labor-Management Committee.

Although I understand your reasons for making this decision and accept your resignation, you should know that I do so with very great reluctance.

During the eleven months you have served as Secretary of Labor, you have demonstrated your strong devotion to public service and your deep understanding of labor issues in the country. Your contributions to the development of a sound set of policies and organization for the Department of Labor have been both extensive and effective. You have attracted to the Department a strong cadre of top quality administrators, and as you leave, you can take great pride in the fact that, the Department is well equipped to deal with the complex problems that confront it daily.

Your role in my Administration, however, has encompassed far more than just leadership of the Department of Labor. Your deep involvement in the deliberations of the Economic Policy Board and your untiring and diligent efforts with the Labor Management Committee have been of enormous value not only to me but to your colleagues in those endeavors. You will be greatly missed by all who have had the privilege of working with you.

As you leave the Administration, I want you to know you do so with my deepest gratitude for your dedicated service to me and to the Nation. You have richly earned the admiration and respect of your fellow citizens.

Betty joins me in wishing you and Dorothy the very greatest personal happiness and good fortune as you return to private life.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

(MORE)



January 13, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

This letter records my resignation as Secretary of Labor and Coordinator of the President's Labor-Management Committee. I have appreciated the opportunity once again to try to be of service to the country and to you, Mr. President, to the best of my ability. Your willingness to listen to divergent views and numerous courtesies to me, I shall always cherish.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN T. DUNLOP

#



(Gergen)

January 20, 1976

USERY ANNOUNCEMENT

I am pleased today to announce my nomination of William J. Usery as the next Secretary of Labor.

Over the past 60 years, the Labor Department has distinguished itself by its steadfast commitment to improving the employment opportunities of wage earners in the United States. I am confident that Mr. Usery will carry forward and enhance that tradition.

Mr. Usery has already demonstrated that he is an outstanding public servant. As an Assistant Secretary of Labor for Labor-Management Relations, as a Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and as a Special Assistant to the President for Labor-Management Relations, Mr. Usery over the past six years has contributed as much as any single individual in the country to stable, responsible labor-management relations. He has won the respect of both labor and management, union workers and union leaders, Presidents as well as Members of the Congress.

Mr. Usery will become Secretary of Labor at a time of economic stress for many of the workers in the country. While we have made encouraging progress in creating new jobs, unemployment is still far too high and inflation is still eroding the paychecks of those who have jobs. Moreover, 1976 will be a year of several major contract renegotiations

which are going to require careful, responsible action
by all parties.

The job of Secretary of Labor is thus especially
important today. I am certain that the Nation will be
well served to have a man of Mr. Usery's qualifications
and character in that post.

#

