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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 24, 1975

MEETING WITH BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE REPRESENTATIVES  
TO DISCUSS LEGISLATION  
PERMITTING PICKETING AT CONSTRUCTION SITES

Friday, July 25, 1975  
12 noon (30 minutes)  
The Cabinet Room

From: Bill Seidman

*BWS*

I. PURPOSE

This meeting is to discuss the Administration's position in regard to Legislation which would permit on-site picketing at construction sites.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background

The Taft-Hartley Act prohibits "secondary boycotts", that is, efforts aimed at a neutral employer to have him cease doing business with an employer with whom a union has a direct dispute. Since the construction industry is one in which many different contractors are usually involved in one project, this prohibition has been generally interpreted to mean that there can be no picketing at a construction site.

Legislation which would permit such picketing is currently before the Congress:

--H.R. 5900 sponsored by Congressman Thompson has been ordered reported out of the Education and Labor Committee.

--S. 1479 sponsored by Senator Harrison Williams is the subject of hearings by the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee.



Secretary Dunlop in testimony before the House Committee indicated support for "legislation to legalize common situs picketing, if that legislation is carefully designed to incorporate appropriate and essential safeguards." The Secretary indicated the Administration's availability for working to develop such safeguards.

Suggestions have been made to permit such picketing if:

1. Ten days' notice is provided prior to picketing.
2. Picket by local union is authorized at the national level of the union organization.

Congressman Rhodes has written to you requesting that you oppose these bills and any attempt to permit on-site picketing at construction projects. His opposition was not brought to Secretary Dunlop's attention prior to the Secretary's testifying. Needless to say, the construction industry is also opposed to any change.

#### B. Participants

Representatives from the Business Roundtable:

- Mr. John Harper (Chairman, ALCOA), Chairman of the Roundtable
- Mr. Robinson Barker (Chairman, PPG), Chairman of Common Situs Picketing Subcommittee
- Mr. Roger Blough--former Chairman of U. S. Steel
- Mr. William Carpenter, Vice President of PPG

Staff:

- Jim Cannon
- Bill Seidman

Note: Secretary Dunlop is out of town.

#### C. Press Plan

To be announced.



III. TALKING POINTS

1. We all know that the question of on-site picketing at construction projects has been a controversial subject for years.
2. What are the possibilities of working out a final position agreeable to all parties?

