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Called in by Norman Walker, Federal Mediation Service 653-5290

Statement by James Scearce, National Director, FMS

RE: Cannery strike talks

"After continuous bargaining around the clock the Union and the employers have made several proposals back and forth to each other. Progress has been made, and the attitudes of the parties are encouraging. We have some distance to go to reach a settlement but everybody continues to work toward that end."

(Discussions started at 10 a.m. Thursday and continued until 5 a.m. Friday, stopping only for meals.)

Note: This statement was read to Sec. Usery)

July 23, 1976

SUBJECT:

CANNERS STRIKE

What is the latest on the California canners' strike?

GUIDANCE: I understand that James Searce, Director of the Federal Conciliation and Mediation Service, met all night and is meeting again this morning with the California Processors, Inc. and the California Council of Cannery Workers.

Following the negotiations so far, the FMCS has said that there have been several proposals and counter proposals, and we believe that the signs are encouraging that a settlement will be reached.

(Note: FMCS put out an optimistic release this morning.)

Does the President have any plans to invoke Taft-Hartley?

GUIDANCE: There are no plans to invoke Taft-Hartley at this time.

ME

July 26, 1976

SUBJECT: CANNERS' STRIKE UPDATE

What is the latest on the canners' strike in California?  
Will the President invoke Taft-Hartley, as former Governor  
Reagan has recommended?

Secretary Usery and Federal Mediator James Scearce met continuously with the affected parties over the weekend, and will continue their meetings this morning. As for the Agriculture Department task force, they are back in Washington and are reporting back to Secretary Butz this morning. After he hears their report, he will make a report to the President.

There are still no plans at this time to invoke Taft-Hartley.

ME