

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 17, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced the appointment of W.J. Usery, Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, as Special Assistant to the President for Labor-Management Negotiations. In this capacity, Mr. Usery, working with the Secretary of Labor, will coordinate dispute settlement in areas outside the normal responsibility of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

The President praised Mr. Usery's outstanding abilities and distinguished record as a mediator who is highly respected by labor and management alike. He stated that the work of Mr. Usery and the Mediation Service had contributed significantly to labor-management peace in a period of economic stress. He also noted that there are a growing number of instances in which the Mediation Service has been of assistance in resolving disputes involving state and local government employees and in controversies involving other groups.

Special attention is being directed by Mr. Usery to assuring improved voluntary procedures in vital energy-related activities, including the role of the Atomic Energy Labor-Relations Panel, first established in 1948. Mr. Usery and Secretary Dunlop are also directing their attention to ways to improve labor-management relations in sectors or industries with special problems.

Mr. Usery was appointed Assistant Secretary of Labor for Labor-Management Relations in February 1969. He served as special Assistant to President Nixon from January to August 1974. Prior to joining the Labor Department he had been grand lodge representative of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), AFL-CIO, since 1956.

Mr. Usery was born on December 21, 1923, in Hardwick Georgia. He attended Georgia Military College and Mercer University, and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Georgia Military College in 1971 for his work in labor-management relations. He served in the United States Navy from 1943 to 1946.

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