

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GOOD NEWS ON EASTERN AIRLINES AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
SPELLS BAD NEWS FOR DEMOCRATIC SUPPORTERS OF
BIG GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE --
BUSH MINIMUM WAGE IS FINAL OFFER

SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE ARE GETTING A DOUBLE DOSE OF REALITY TODAY. THE EASTERN AIRLINES CRISIS IS TAKING A BIG STEP FORWARD TO A FINAL RESOLUTION, AND THE NATION'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAS DROPPED TO FIVE PERCENT, THE LOWEST RATE IN SIXTEEN YEARS. TOGETHER, THESE BREAKTHROUGHS PROVE THAT OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM STILL WORKS, SO LONG AS IT IS TRULY 'FREE' OF BIG GOVERNMENT.

THE TEXAS AIR CORPORATION HAS APPARENTLY REACHED AN AGREEMENT TO SELL EASTERN TO A COMPANY CONTROLLED BY PETER UEBERROTH AND EASTERN EMPLOYEES. THIS IS GOOD NEWS. GOOD NEWS FOR EASTERN, GOOD NEWS FOR EASTERN EMPLOYEES, GOOD NEWS FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE STRIKING WORKERS, AND GOOD NEWS FOR TRAVELERS -- AND GUESS WHAT? ALL THIS GOOD NEWS WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT BIG GOVERNMENT. THAT IS A CONCEPT THAT SOME OF THE SUPPORTERS OF BIG GOVERNMENT DO NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND.

I AM NOT PRIVY TO THE SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE EASTERN AGREEMENT, AND IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT THE EFFECT WILL BE ON THE LABOR FRONT.

BUT THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL. IT PROVES THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD NO BUSINESS STICKING ITS NOSE INTO EASTERN'S LABOR PROBLEMS. IT PROVES THAT THERE WAS NO -- AND THERE STILL IS NO -- NEED FOR A SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY BOARD DESPITE THE IMPASSIONED CALLS OF MY COLLEAGUE FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN TEXAS AIR AND MR. UEBERROTH ALSO TELLS US SOMETHING ELSE. IT TELLS US HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO LET THE FREE MARKET DO ITS WORK AND HOW CAUTIOUS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST BE BEFORE IT DECIDES TO INTERVENE IN THE PRIVATE ECONOMY.

I JUST HOPE THAT WE REMEMBER THIS IMPORTANT LESSON AS WE CONTINUE TO DEBATE ON MINIMUM WAGE.

TODAY, PRESIDENT BUSH SENT ME A LETTER WHICH MAKES VERY CLEAR THAT HE HAS MADE HIS ONE AND ONLY OFFER ON THE MINIMUM WAGE. THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY DOUBT ABOUT IT. PRESIDENT BUSH MADE A CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT TO AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE. HE KEPT HIS WORD. HE OKAYED A SUBSTANTIAL 70 PERCENT INCREASE, FROM THE OLD \$3.35 TO \$4.25.

SO, PRESIDENT BUSH HAS DELIVERED! A \$4.25 MINIMUM WAGE AND A SIX-MONTH TRAINING WAGE, PERIOD. THAT IS NOT AN OPENING BID. THAT IS IT.

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