

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, February 22, 1995

Contact: Clarkson Hine
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STRIKER REPLACEMENT EXECUTIVE ORDER

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee Chairman Nancy Landon Kassebaum sent the following letter to the President today urging reconsideration of his apparent decision to issue an Executive Order prohibiting federal contractors from hiring permanent replacement-workers during a strike:

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 22, 1995

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to reconsider your apparent decision to issue an Executive Order that would prohibit federal contractors from hiring permanent replacement-workers during a strike.

As you know, our system of collective bargaining has performed ably for over half a century. Just as an employer's demands are moderated by the knowledge that his or her employees are legally entitled to strike, so too are the demands of workers moderated by the knowledge that a strike may result in the hiring of permanent replacements. This uncertainty is an essential element of collective bargaining. It offers a powerful inducement for both groups--employer and worker alike--to negotiate in good faith and resolve their differences through compromise.

This balance between labor and management has been the hallmark of our industrial relations since the passage of the National Labor Relations Act, nearly 60 years ago. It has served our country well, promoting economic growth and protecting the rights of working men and women.

To upset this careful balance would be a mistake. To formulate labor-management policy through an Executive Order would also set a terrible precedent. It is Congress' responsibility, not the Administration's responsibility, to write the laws governing labor-management relations in this country.

Mr. President, please do not attempt an end run around the legislative process. Last year, Congress rejected the so-called striker replacement bill. It would be inappropriate to revive this defeated legislation through an Executive Order.

Sincerely,


BOB DOLE


NANCY LANDON KASSEBAUM