

July 30 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1996

Statement on the Settlement of Railroad Contract Disputes

July 30, 1996

These agreements represent a triumph of the collective bargaining process. I commend the parties for their hard work in reaching these settlements. I also commend our Presidential Emergency Boards for developing recommendations that helped to bring about these resolutions.

In the past 25 years, Congress has had to step in no fewer than 10 times to prevent national rail stoppages. Such stoppages can cost American businesses and consumers billions of dollars. The voluntary contract agreements achieved this year broke that pattern and represent a milestone for labor-management relations.

Letter to Members of Congress on Proposed Safe Drinking Water Legislation

July 30, 1996

Dear _____ :

I urge the Congress to pass strong legislation that protects our nation's drinking water. Although the conferees have made considerable progress, it is imperative that I sign this legislation into law by August 1. If the House and Senate fail to act, \$725 million in federal funding will cease to be available for this important health and safety initiative.

All Americans have the right to know that their drinking water is safe. This legislation should solidify that right by strengthening health and safety standards in addition to protecting the public from significant threats to our drinking water. It is critical that the Congress approve

legislation that provides both a reasonable framework to improve our nation's water supply in addition to the funding and flexibility necessary for communities to make these improvements a reality.

A compromise bill containing these priorities is clearly within reach. I hope that we seize this opportunity and pass this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

BILL

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to congressional conferees meeting to consider S. 1316.

Message to the House of Representatives Returning Without Approval Legislation on Labor-Management Relations

July 30, 1996

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval, H.R. 743, the "Teamwork for Employees and Managers Act of 1995." This act would undermine crucial employee protections.

I strongly support workplace practices that promote cooperative labor-management relations. In order for the United States to remain globally competitive into the next century, employees must recognize their stake in their em-

ployer's business, employers must value their employees' labor, and each must work in partnership with the other. Cooperative efforts, by promoting mutual trust and respect, can encourage innovation, improve productivity, and enhance the efficiency and performance of American workplaces.

Current law provides for a wide variety of cooperative workplace efforts. It permits employers to work with employees in quality circles