

is not, however, a permanent solution to the problem, and the Federal Government will continue working with both sides to pursue a settlement. The ultimate responsibility for an agreement lies with the worker representatives and the port operators. I expect both sides to put the concerns of

our national health and safety first and work in good faith to resolve their differences as quickly as possible.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:44 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

Letter to the Attorney General Directing Action on the Labor Disputes Affecting Pacific Coast Ports

October 8, 2002

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

On October 7, 2002, by virtue of the authority vested in me by section 206 of the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947 (61 Stat. 155; 29 U.S.C. 176) (the "Act"), I issued Executive Order 13275. That Order created a Board of Inquiry to report on certain labor disputes affecting the maritime industry of the United States.

Today, I received the Board's written report in the matter. A copy of the report is attached. In my opinion, this unresolved labor dispute has resulted in a lock-out affecting a substantial part of the maritime industry of the United States, an industry that is engaged in trade, commerce, transportation (including the transportation of military supplies), transmission, and communication among the several States and with foreign nations. This lock-out, if per-

mitted to continue, will imperil the national health and safety.

Therefore, in order to eliminate this peril and to secure the resumption of trade, commerce, transportation, transmission, and communication among the several States and with foreign nations, I direct you, pursuant to the provisions of section 208 of the Act, to petition in the name of the United States in any District Court of the United States having jurisdiction of the parties to enjoin the lock-out (or its continuance) and for such other relief as may in your judgment be appropriate.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks at a Reception for Hispanic Heritage Month

October 9, 2002

Bienvenidos. It is such an honor to have you all here to the *Casa Blanca, la casa de todos que viven en esta país*. As the Surgeon General mentioned, I'm just a temporary resident—[laughter]—but *es un gran honor para mi familia de vivir aquí*.

I want to thank you all for coming. Hispanic Heritage Month is an important month for our country, particularly now that we're at a time of war. You see, Hispanic Heritage Month talks to the great diversity of our country and the fact that