

introduced today by Senator HUTCHINSON, which I have cosponsored.

The strength and prosperity of this great Nation are in large part a result of the industrial peace between labor and management, that has been the norm since the passage, in 1935, of the Wagner Act. That act, and its progeny, form the keystone of our national labor relations policy. The bedrock belief supporting this policy has been to recognize that the parties—workers, employers, and unions—are in the best position to resolve their differences and to set and to achieve their goals. To this end, Congress has maintained a basic hands-off policy, preferring to set only the broadest boundaries, beyond which the conduct of the parties must not stray. I have to say that our congressional predecessors legislated wisely, for this policy of Federal Government neutrality has allowed the United States to become the envy of the industrialized world.

This is not to say that there have not been bumps in the road to labor-management harmony. Congress has amended the Federal labor laws, and also has considered, and rejected, amendments to the Federal labor laws. Attempts by Congress to smooth the bumps, however, have been subjected to one overriding process—any changes to the laws that nurture the balance between the parties in the industrial arena will have been forged in the heat of legislative debate and advocacy.

Today, sadly, the Clinton administration considers an action that would displace Federal neutrality, thereby renouncing over 60 years of national labor policy, and ignoring 60 years of fine tuning of that policy by Congress and the courts. Simply put, the Executive order being considered by the Clinton administration would result in most, if not all, Federal construction being performed by union shop contractors. This would give a whole new meaning to the term top down organizing. It would represent union organizing from the very top—the Presidency of the United States.

Further, this Clinton initiative would occur without benefit of the legislative process, the process which in my opinion is mandated by the Constitution of the United States. And I find it even more disheartening that this end run by the administration, of the policy setting role of the Congress, seems less designed to serve the public interest than to advance political interests.

Now, I understand that the administration will probably argue that the proposed order does not mandate the adoption of a project labor agreement, and therefore does not inescapably lead to union-only contractors on Federal construction projects. The administration would go on to argue that since the order requires the Federal agencies to make a finding that use of a project labor agreement would advance the Government's procurement interest, only where that finding is made would

union agreements be required. This argument, however, is suspect. The introductory paragraphs of the draft order clearly indicate the President's preferences as to use of a project labor agreement. Since the boss thinks it is such a good idea, it is not likely that persons that the President selected to head the executive branch agencies would think otherwise.

There is one other factor that is very important, and must be noted. Employment in the construction industry, particularly where union agreements are in place, is done through hiring hall referrals. If a nonunion contractor is forced, because of a project labor agreement, to become a party to a union agreement, it is not hard to picture what would happen to that contractor's employees. They would be at the back of the line when it comes to hiring hall referrals. This is despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of construction workers have not chosen to belong to a union.

I, and my Republican colleagues on the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, have written to the President, asking him not to issue this or any similar Executive order. We noted that if the proposed order were adopted, it would undermine the benefits derived from a nondiscriminatory competitive bidding process, likely resulting in substantially higher Federal construction costs to the American taxpayer. We further pointed out that, if adopted, the order would cause harm to the important principle of employee freedom of choice to select or reject representation by a union. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

Finally, I congratulate Senator HUTCHINSON on introducing S. 606, and offer my full support in gaining its passage. The bill would prevent a Federal agency from requiring a bidder on a Federal contract to be a union contractor. Frankly, it is unfortunate that we need to legislate open competition, and outlaw this type of anticompetitive restriction, in the Federal procurement process. The Clinton initiative, however, demonstrates the need for S. 606. I further note, that no matter what one thinks of any specific provision of S. 606, my colleagues, from both sides of the aisle, must be comforted to know, that before any changes are made by S. 606 to Federal labor policy, those proposals will be subjected to the debate, opinion gathering, and fact finding, that is the hallmark of the legislative process. And whatever comes out of that process will be better, for this Nation, because of that process.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, April 16, 1997.

THE PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: It has been widely reported that the Administration is prepar-

ing to issue an Executive Order promoting the use of "project labor agreements" on federal and federally funded construction projects. We have reviewed a published draft of this proposed order and are writing to you to express our grave concerns regarding this initiative.

The proposal would require executive branch agencies, which are preparing to implement or fund a construction project, to determine whether the use of a project labor agreement on that project would "advance the government's procurement interest in economical, efficient, and timely high quality project performance by promoting labor-management stability and project compliance with applicable legal requirements governing safety and health, equal employment opportunity, labor standards and other matters . . ." While these are laudable objectives, we note that federal law already requires that they be met.

Under the proposal after an agency has made the requisite determination, the ensuing construction project could be performed only pursuant to an agreement with a union. We note that any agency would be hard pressed not to answer this determination in the positive, given that in the introduction of the proposal, you extol the use of project labor agreements. The bottom line of this proposal Executive Order is that most, if not all, federal construction would be performed by union shop contractors.

If the proposed order is issued, union status might well trump savings to the taxpayers. Even if a qualified non-union contractor might be able to bid the project at a substantial savings to the American taxpayer, a higher-priced union bidder would be awarded the contract under your proposal. Even though the overwhelming majority of construction workers have not chosen to belong to a union, they would be effectively barred from federal construction work. It comes as no surprise that the head of AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department is reported to have participated in the drafting of this proposal.

We believe that this proposed order threatens to undermine the benefits derived from a nondiscriminatory competitive bidding process, likely resulting in substantially higher federal construction costs to the American taxpayer. Further, the order would reverse the over sixty years of neutrality in matters of labor-management relations by the federal government. It also would injure an overreaching principle of our nation's labor relations policy, that of employee freedom of choice to select or reject representation by a union.

We urge you in the strongest terms to reconsider this initiative, and not promulgate this or any similar Executive Order giving greater encouragement to project labor agreements for federal and federally assisted construction.

Sincerely,

JAMES M. JEFFORDS,
JUDD GREGG,
MIKE DEWINE,
TIM HUTCHINSON,
JOHN W. WARNER,
DAN COATS,
BILL FRIST,
MICHAEL B. ENZI,
SUSAN M. COLLINS,
MITCH MCCONNELL,
U.S. Senators.

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO
RON LEDLOW, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
OF THE SENATE SERVICE
DEPARTMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to express the deep gratitude of the

Senate to Ron Ledlow, the Deputy Director of the Senate Service Department, who is retiring after nearly 30 years of dedicated service to the Senate.

Ron Ledlow began his career 27 years ago this week as a pressman on the night shift in the Service Department and rose through the journeyman ranks into management, eventually serving as the Director of the Senate Service Department.

Ron has used his skill, creativity, and expertise in shepherding the Senate through nearly 30 years of changes in print, production, and graphics technology on which we as Members, and an institution, rely.

Through all of these changes, Ron has been driven by his high standards for quality control and exceptional customer service. His professionalism and respect for his employees and this institution have been a great example to his coworkers, and to all of us here in the Senate.

His contributions in support of democratic institutions are not limited to the U.S. Senate. In 1990, under the Gift of Democracy Resolution, Ron, along with several other congressional representatives, went to Poland as a technical adviser. His counsel and assistance helped strengthen the emerging democratic institutions of Poland. Ron's assistance was so valuable, that he was asked to return to Poland for another tour of duty.

Outside of his work in the Service Department, Ron has served on several committees for the U.S. Senate Federal Credit Union. Ron was an active member of the Senate Staff Club and served as the club's president in the mideighties. In 1991, Ron was presented with the Roll Call Sid Yudain Congressional Staffer of the Year Award.

Mr. President, our Senate family wishes Ron, his wife Dee, and his children Gerald and Steven the very best. We hope that Ron and Dee enjoy their well-deserved time on the links of South Carolina.

REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for 1997 first quarter mass mailings is April 25, 1997. If a Senator's office did no mass mailings during this period, a form should be submitted that states "none."

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510-7116.

The Public Records office will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records office on (202) 224-0322.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:16 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 1997, a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz,

one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1001. An act to extend the term of appointment of certain members of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission and the Physician Payment Review Commission.

H.R. 1225. An act to make a technical correction to title 28, United States Code, relating to jurisdiction for lawsuits against terrorist states.

H.R. 1226. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the unauthorized inspection of tax returns or tax return information.

At 11:51 am. on Thursday, April 17, 1997, a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 111. An act to provide for the conveyance of a parcel of unused agricultural land in Dos Palos, California, to the Dos Palos Ag Boosters for use as a farm school.

H.R. 173. An act to amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to authorize donation of Federal law enforcement canines that are no longer needed for official purposes to individuals with experience handling canines in the performance of law enforcement duties.

H.R. 607. An act to amend the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to require notice of cancellation rights to private mortgage loans and to provide for cancellation of such insurance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 930. An act to Federal employees to use Federal travel charge cards for all payments of expenses of official Government travel, to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish requirements for prepayments audits of Federal agency transportation expenses, to authorize reimbursement of Federal agency employees for taxes incurred on travel or transportation reimbursements, and to authorize test programs for the payment of Federal employee travel expenses and relocation expenses.

H.R. 1090. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow revision of veterans benefits decisions based on clear and unmistakable error.

H.R. 1092. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to enter into enhanced-use leases for Department of Veterans Affairs property, to rename the United States Court of Veterans Appeals and the National Cemetery System, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent resolution honoring the lifetime achievements of Jackie Robinson.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 111. An act to provide for the conveyance of a parcel of unused agricultural land in Dos Palos, California, to the Dos Palos Ag Boosters for use as a farm school; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 173. An act to amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to authorize donation of Federal law enforcement canines that are no longer needed for official purposes to individuals with experience handling canines in the performance of law enforcement duties; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 930. An act to Federal employees to use Federal travel charge cards for all payments of expenses of official Government travel, to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish requirements for prepayments audits of Federal agency transportation expenses, to authorize reimbursement of Federal agency employees for taxes incurred on travel or transportation reimbursements, and to authorize test programs for the payment of Federal employee travel expenses and relocation expenses; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1090. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow revision of veterans benefits decisions based on clear and unmistakable error; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1092. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to enter into enhanced-use leases for Department of Veterans Affairs property, to rename the United States Court of Veterans Appeals and the National Cemetery System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The following concurrent resolution was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent resolution honoring the lifetime achievements of Jackie Robinson; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1226. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the unauthorized inspection of tax returns or tax return information.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1583. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, case number 94-10; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1584. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule (RIN1076-AD66) received on April 10, 1997; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-1585. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the practice of preferencing; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1586. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of the Treasury, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Bretton Woods Agreements Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1587. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, a draft