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Minutes of the May 24, 1993 Meeting of the Commission on the Future of Worker-Management Relations

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Commission on the Future of Worker-Management Relations

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COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF WORKER-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MAY 24, 1993

The first meeting of the Commission on the Future of Worker-Management Relations was held on Monday, May 24, 1993 in Room N-3437, U.S. Department of Labor, starting at 10:00 a.m. All members of the Commission were present. Chairman John T. Dunlop presided. Mrs. June M. Robinson, the Designated Federal Official for the Commission, was present.

President Clinton's nominee for Solicitor of Labor, Thomas S. Williamson, Jr. and the Associate Solicitor of Labor, Department for Legislation and Legal Counsel, Robert A. Shapiro, provided legal guidance to the Commission on the applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. A brochure, "The Federal Advisory Committee Act: An Overview" had been distributed to the Commission members.

The Commission then turned to a presentation by the Acting Commissioner of Labor Statistics, William J. Barron, who was accompanied by Deborah P. Klein, Associate Commissioner for Publications, and by Ronald Kutscher, Associate Commissioner for Economic Growth. A series of 25 charts and 13 tables were distributed under the caption, "A Briefing for Commission on the Future of Worker-Management Relations." These data presented an overview of the changing American workforce, its demography, employment and unemployment, wages and productivity, including the developments since the year 1950 and projections to the year 2005. The presentation was interspersed with questions, comments and requests for additional data from members of the Commission, particularly on the comparative experience of other countries, the characteristics of small enterprises and establishments, and the measurement of accidents and occupational illness at the workplace. The Acting Commissioner agreed to return to the second meeting of the Commission on June 21, 1993 to present additional available data to respond to some of the questions and requests.

The Commission adjourned at noon for a closed lunch for the purposes set forth in the Federal Register notice of meeting on May 7, 1993. The Commission reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

The Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich spoke, expanding on the Mission Statement and the tasks of the Commission. He commented on the changes going on in the world economy and their consequences for the workplace and worker-management relations. A few questions were addressed to the Secretary.

The Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown at 2:30 p.m. addressed the Commission regarding the need for a new partnership between labor and management, looking to common interests that help the economy thrive and achieve sustained growth. He spoke of

relationships between government and the American people and the pubic and private sectors that are in need of redefinition and renewal.

The Commission proceeded to announce several procedural matters related to its work. It distributed "Procedures for Presentations to the Commission" to advise interested individuals and organizations as to the procedures for requests to make presentations, oral or written, to the Commission.

The Commission established a series of working parties comprised of one or several Commission members to report to its next meeting as to the questions and processes it should consider in developing the facts relevant to its work. Members of the Commission were to advise the Chair immediately as to their choice of working parties. The assignments would be for one or two meetings rather than for the duration of the Commission. The following working parties were proposed:

1. Planning regional and special topic sessions
2. U.S. workplace committees
3. Foreign experience with workplace organizations
4. Explore a research topic on focus groups, attitudes of workers and supervisor
5. Worker/management and labor-management litigation
6. Extent and impact of regulation at the workplace
7. Impact of technology and competitiveness
8. Changing workforce and workplace, the BLS presentation
9. Small business

A one-page selected bibliography of books and pamphlets relevant to the work of the Commission was distributed.

The Chair indicated that the work of the Commission would initially concentrate on the first question of its Mission Statement, on workplace committees, recognizing that the second question involving the legal framework was necessarily involved.

The Commission would initially concentrate on finding the facts and developing sets of data before turning later in the year to policy options and recommendations.

The Chair introduced Mr. Everett M. Ehrlich, Special Advisor to the Secretary of Commerce who has been designated to direct the Department of Commerce participation in the work of the Commission, and Mr. Warren E. Farb and Mr. David C. Cranmer of Commerce Department who have been assigned as staff to work part-time with the Commission. The Chair also announced that Paul Weiler would serve as counsel to the Commission. The Chair thanked Mrs. Robinson, The Designated Federal Official, and her staff for their dedicated work in the start-up of the Commission and arranging this first meeting.

The Commission set future meeting for June 21, July 28 and September 15, 1993.

A general discussion among members of the Commission ensued regarding its assignments of the working parties and issues and questions the Commission needed to consider.

Approximately 140 members of the public attended the meeting.

The Commission adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Certified by:

John T. Dunlop
Chairman

July 3, 1993
Date