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DUNLOP REPORT PICKS RIGHT TARGETS, BUT FALLS SHORT

The AFL-CIO issued this statement in response to the report of the Commission on the Future of Worker-Management Relations:

The Dunlop Commission correctly identified the urgent problems facing American workers -- stagnating wages, longer working hours, and a growing inequality in earnings. They reaffirmed what we have known for many years -- that the best way to address these problems is by giving workers a strong voice in decision-making through democratic unions of their own choosing.

Unfortunately, the Commission failed to recommend strong enough protections for workers who try to achieve that participation but currently face strong employer opposition.

Equally unfortunate is the fact that their recommendations on workplace committees would allow the boss to decide who represents the workers. Such a hollow version of "representation" runs counter to basic principles of democracy and threatens to undermine workers' legitimate representatives.

American unions have a strong track record of supporting real employee participation programs and have been partners in many of the most successful and longstanding examples. But we know that real "employee voice" means democratically elected representation. And we know that many of the economic concerns of America's workers will persist until workers can freely choose their own representatives.

The report's recommendations of positive changes in our labor laws, designed to enlarge and make real the opportunities for worker voice could, if enacted, alleviate some of the problems faced by workers.

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