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National Labor Relations Board

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STATEMENT OF FRED FEINSTEIN, GENERAL COUNSEL, NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD, CONCERNING DUNLOP COMMISSION REPORT

I applaud Professor Dunlop and all the Commission Members for making a major contribution in identifying and analyzing a broad range of labor relations problems facing this country and offering innovative solutions. Their report will provide important guidance on a number of vexing issues that need to be addressed in fashioning a national labor policy for the 21st century.

Although I previously spent 17 years working on the legislative end of labor relations, when I became General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board 10 months ago my responsibilities shifted from statutory reforms to administering the Act as written, and improving agency procedures. In testimony to the Dunlop Commission on September 29, 1994, I outlined several operational priorities that I initiated as part of the Administration's "reinventing government" program: we are improving the quality and speed of investigations; streamlining representation procedures to speed up elections so that most elections are held within six to seven weeks of the filing of a petition; and using more effectively the Board's authority under Section 10(j) of the Act to obtain interim injunctions from federal district courts.

Our focus is on implementing the existing law as effectively as possible. The staff of this agency is working very hard and capably to fulfill the promise in the law that all Americans have the right to organize and bargain collectively, should they choose to do so. If Congress decides to amend the law, we will, of course, make whatever adjustments are necessary to carry out the changes.

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