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Report and Recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Worker-Management Relations Released Today

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News

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HOT TOPIC
*Future
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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF WORKER-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS RELEASED TODAY

The recommendations of a committee that has been studying worker-management relations since May 1993 were released today.

John T. Dunlop, chair of the Commission on the Future of Worker-Management Relations, presented the commission's recommendations to Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich and Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown.

Reich said, "I am impressed at the hard work and dedication this Commission displayed while tackling such a thorny and complex area. I am looking forward to reviewing the report in detail. Change is never easy, and the American workplace has undergone dramatic transformations in the past fifty years. We need to update our thinking to be prepared for the next century."

"The commission's work reflects our understanding that technology and global integration are changing our economy and that, in order to stay competitive, we must change with it. It is imperative that we find new ways that the public and private sectors, and labor and management, can build new partnerships that will keep our economy growing," Brown said.

The Dunlop Commission, which includes three former secretaries of labor and a former secretary of commerce as well as representatives from academia, business and labor, was asked to investigate and report on three primary issues:

1. What (if any) new methods or institutions should be encouraged or required to enhance workplace productivity through labor-management cooperation and employee participation.
2. What (if any) changes should be made in the present legal framework and which collective bargaining practices should be altered to enhance cooperative behavior, improve productivity and reduce conflict and delay.

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3. What (if anything) should be done to increase the extent to which workplace problems are directly resolved by the parties themselves, rather than through state and federal courts and government bodies.

Dunlop stressed, "The report and recommendations of the commission are directed to the questions raised in the mission statement; each question was considered separately, but the issues of the commission's recommendations constitute a highly interdependent whole."

The report and recommendations released today come after a comprehensive examination of worker-management relations including extensive hearings and testimony from all communities associated with worker-management relations.

The executive summary is attached. For a copy of the full report, contact June Robinson at (202) 219-9148.

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The text of the report is available from the Department of Labor's electronic bulletin board, LABOR NEWS at (202) 219-4784. Callers must pay any toll-call charges. 300, 1200, 2400, 9600 or 14,400 baud; parity: none; Data Bits = 8; Stop Bit = 1, voice phone: (202) 219-8831.