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American Airlines
February 12, 1997

- The parties are in intensive negotiations this week and we are hopeful that they will come to a resolution. We continue to monitor the situation. If the parties believe that it would be constructive for us to be involved, we are willing to help.
- Senators Boxer, Graham, Hutchison and Durbin will meet with Erskine Bowles at 2:00pm. This is strictly a “listening” session.

Background Guidance

- The Railway Labor Act governs aviation as well as railroad contract disputes. Under the RLA, the potential impacts of a strike could lead the National Mediation Board to recommend that the President appoint a Presidential Emergency Board. PEBs are common in the railroad industry, but have not been ordered in an airline dispute since 1966.
- In order to appoint a PEB, the President would have to find that a strike would pose a substantial economic threat to interstate commerce, and would deprive a a sector of the country necessary transportation support.
- The PEB would have 30 days in whihc to report its recommendations for settlement of the issues. The parties then have another 30 days in which to reach resolution of those issues before they may elect to pursue other forms of “self-help” such as strikes or lockouts.

MEGlynn, DoT, Bruce Lindsey

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 17, 1997

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The Chairman of Presidential Emergency Board No. 233, Robert O. Harris, has advised President Clinton that American Airlines and the Allied Pilots Association are engaged in intensive mediation meetings and that additional time prior to the Board's submission of its report, will increase the likelihood of a successful outcome.

In response, President Clinton today extended until Wednesday, March 19, 1997, the time for Presidential Emergency Board No. 233 to submit its report to him.

Mr. Harris also advised President Clinton that the parties have voluntarily agreed not to resort to self-help until 12:01 a.m. EDT on April 28, 1997. The President compliments both American Airlines and the Allied Pilots Association on this agreement and their willingness to engage in these mediation efforts. He encourages them to redouble these efforts to reach a negotiated settlement.

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2/11/97

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TALKING POINTS ON THE
POTENTIAL AMERICAN AIRLINES PILOTS STRIKE
(READ ONLY)
FEBRUARY 10, 1997**

- Today, American Airlines management and representatives of the Allied Pilots Association have begun intensive negotiations. The parties are being assisted by the National Mediation Board (NMB).
- The Clinton Administration strongly supports efforts by the airline and the pilots to reach an acceptable agreement through the collective bargaining process.
- The Secretary of Transportation is hopeful that the airline and the pilots will find common ground which will satisfactorily protect the interests of both parties, and prevent any disruptions in service to the American public.
- The Department of Transportation will continue to closely monitor and analyze ongoing developments. The department will continue to provide the President and the Administration with information about the current situation and potential impacts of this dispute.

BACKGROUND

- The Railway Labor Act (RLA) governs aviation as well as railroad contract disputes. Under the RLA, the potential impacts of a strike could lead the National Mediation Board to recommend that the President appoint a Presidential Emergency Board (PEB).
- However, the NMB has not recommended appointment of a PEB under recent similar circumstances in the airline industry.
- The PEB would under law have 30 days in which to report its recommendations for settlement of the issues. The parties then have another 30 days in which to reach resolution of those issues before they may elect to pursue other forms of "self help," such as a strike or lockout.
- A PEB does not by law mediate the labor dispute, but investigates the issues and make recommendations of contract terms.

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From Dept. of Transportation

American Airlines
February 10, 1997

We are monitoring the situation and want to be helpful in resolving the dispute if the parties believe we can play a constructive role.

Q: Have you received a letter from American Airlines asking for you to appoint an arbitrator?

A: We have received a letter from American Airlines asking us to keep tabs on the situation.

FYI: Today, supernegotiations will begin and are scheduled to continue for the next five days.

We have received several letters from Congress on this issue. They all reiterate the seriousness of the situation and urge us to be helpful if we can.

MEGLYNN
per Bruce Lindsey

American Airlines
February 7, 1997

We are monitoring the situation and want to be helpful in resolving the dispute if the parties believe we can play a constructive role.

Q: Have you received a letter from American Airlines asking for you to appoint an arbitrator?

A: We have received a letter from American Airlines asking us to keep tabs on the situation.

MEGLYNN
per Bruce Lindsey