



NEWS RELEASE

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE •

W. J. USERY, Jr., Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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W. J. Usery, Jr., Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, today praised labor and management representatives in the Southern California Food Industry for accepting FMCS-initiated procedures that avoided interruption of essential food supplies to consumers.

Usery said the case is evidence of the high priority placed by the Government on maintaining food deliveries to the market place in order to avoid further demand pressure on food prices.

At Usery's recommendation a strike of more than 50,000 store clerks, that could have idled as many as 120,000 employees working or servicing grocery, bakery and snack bar chains and independent stores throughout Southern California, was postponed and a factfinding procedure was initiated.

Nine locals of the Retail Clerks International Association (AFL-CIO) and the Food Employers Council, Inc., have accepted the factfinding recommendations made by arbitrator Wayne L. Horvitz for new wage increases.

(over)

"It is especially important that we do everything possible to bring equity to the worker and, at the same time, avoid work stoppages in the food industry these days if we are to stem the rise in food prices," Usery stated. "The effort is aimed at increasing food supplies, not curtailing them."

Usery commended the union and management officials involved in the Southern California food settlement for their cooperation in Federal mediation efforts.

Usery cited special mediation efforts which resulted in settlement of a labor dispute last weekend involving the Two Guys Stores chain of 48 establishments in the six eastern states.

Also, he said a strike threat has been avoided for the time being by a fact-finding procedure under way involving the Iowa Beef Processors Inc. plant at Dakota City, Nebraska, and the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers Union. This is a major packing plant.

Beyond that most of the other major meatpackers including the Armour, Swift, Cudahy, Wilson, Libby, Morrell, and Oscar Mayer firms have labor contracts expiring at the end of August. Usery said he has already begun consultations with those firms.

"The Mediation Service is devoting its best efforts to maintaining labor peace in all food supply industries," Usery stated.

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