

Dunlop, in Quitting Labor Post, Sees a Loss of Trust After Veto

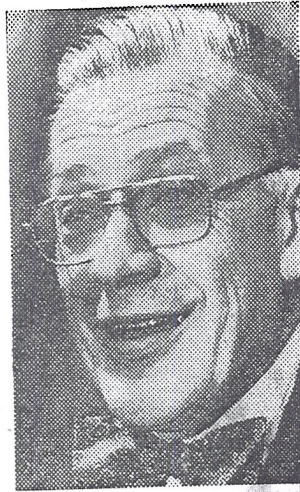
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By PHILIP SHABECOFF
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 — John T. Dunlop announced today his resignation as Secretary of Labor, effective Feb. 1, saying that "the requisite communications, confidence and trust" among labor, management and Government were "no longer possible," at least with him in the job.

At a news conference, he said that he was not resigning in protest of President Ford's veto of the construction picketing bill, of which he was the chief architect, but that his departure was a direct consequence of the veto.

No announcement was made about a possible successor to Mr. Dunlop. However, observers within the Administration and the labor movement said that they expected W. J. Usery Jr., director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service,



Associated Press

John T. Dunlop after announcing his resignation.

to be offered the job and to accept it.

Several of them also predicted that Mr. Dunlop's departure would signal the resumption

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of labor-management unrest in the country after a long period of relative peace.

Asked about the prospects for labor peace in the coming year, Mr. Dunlop said today "I hope desperately" that the atmosphere of labor-management cooperation would not evaporate.

In a prepared statement, he appeared to suggest that Mr. Ford had let political considerations dictate his veto decision.

"My deep concern," the statement said, "is that the internal processes of both political parties not impair the country's capacity for effective self-government for yet another critical year."

Mr. Ford vetoed the construction bill, which he origi-

clude, indeed they permit and encourage, honest differences of view strongly expressed," he added.

He said that since Dec. 22, the day Mr. Ford announced that he would veto the construction bill, he had consulted widely with labor and management leaders to determine the prospects "for constructive developments in the labor-management field with the Government and in the areas of responsibility of the Department of Labor."

"It is my sober conclusion from these discussions that attitudes have been significantly affected, and that the requisite communications, confidence and trust is no longer possible, at least with me in the post of Secretary of Labor," he said. "Accordingly, I have submitted my resignation. My decision reflects a professional judgment as to what practically can and cannot be achieved this year."

The construction bill, drawn up by the Labor Department with President Ford's blessing, would have permitted a single construction union striking against a single contractor to shut down an entire construction site—a tactic prohibited under current law. But the legislation also contained provisions to help stabilize collective bargaining in the construction industry.

Ford Reversed Stand

Mr. Ford was originally persuaded by Mr. Dunlop, a Harvard economist known as an authority on labor relations in the construction industry, that the bill would have a beneficial effect on the industry. But, after an intensive lobbying campaign by contracting organizations and the National Right to Work Committee and the threat of desertion by many conservative Republicans, Mr. Ford did an about-face and vetoed the bill.

Organized labor responded to the veto with anger and charges of betrayal. All the labor representatives on President Ford's labor-management advisory board quit. George Meany, the head of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, made it clear that organized labor could no longer cooperate with the Ford Administration.

Today, Mr. Meany issued a statement saying:

"The nation has lost a man of great talent and ability who had made and was making a significant contribution to America. But the President has made it impossible for Mr. Dunlop to continue to make that contribution as Secretary of Labor. The President undermined Mr. Dunlop's credibility, and the regrettable result is that the nation has lost the services of an outstanding citizen."



United Press International

W. J. Usery Jr. has been mentioned as a possible successor to Mr. Dunlop.

nally said that he would sign, under heavy pressure from the right wing of the Republican Party.

Mr. Dunlop said that Mr. Ford made a last-minute effort yesterday at a meeting in the White House to dissuade him from quitting. Today, the President sent him a "Dear John" letter accepting his resignation with the "deepest regret" and expressing appreciation and admiration for Mr. Dunlop's "enormous value" as Labor Secretary and economic adviser.

Took Post Last March

Mr. Dunlop, who was sworn in as Labor Secretary last March 18, said in his statement, "In labor-management relations, a sense of trust, confidence and respect is essential for any genuine communications among labor, management and Government."

"These attitudes do not pre-