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Bush decides against settling Eastern strike by intervention

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush on Tuesday virtually ruled out intervening in the Eastern Airlines strike, saying "man-to-man negotiation" is preferable to a government-imposed settlement.

While he didn't flatly rule out stepping in to end the walkout, Bush

said his policy "will hold firm" despite pressure in some congressional quarters to force him to act.

Fielding questions for more than 40 minutes in the White House briefing room, he insisted that "there isn't malaise" in his administration because of the drawn-out

fight over confirmation of Defense Secretary-designate John Tower.

"A lot is happening," the president said. "Not all of it good, but a lot is happening. . . . We're on track."

Bush defended his chief of staff,

saying John Sununu, the former New Hampshire governor, knows his way around Washington and is doing his job well. Bush said he has "total confidence" in Sununu. Bush noted that Tower has

pledged not to drink a drop of liquor if he gets the job and told his nationally televised news confreence, "You'll have 25,000 people in the

Pentagon making sure that's true."

The president said his backing of Tower against Democratic opposition in the Senate "isn't iron-willed stubbornness; it's a question of fundamental principle here."

The president had spare time in his schedule Tuesday because inclement weather forced him to cancel a planned trip to Lancaster, Pa., and Wilmington, Del., for speeches on his plans to attack drug

House Speaker Jim Wright responded that Bush's refusal to halt the strike by appointing an investiga-tive panel "would be unprecedented," noting that over the last half-century 33 such boards have been named in transportation dis-

Bush, however, used his opening

tate my belief that free collective bargaining is the best means of resolv-

He exhorted Eastern management, the Machinists union and other unions to conduct "head-on-head, man-to-man negotiation" and said he thought that would be "better and more lasting . . . than an imposed government settlement, which could cause the airline to totally shut down.

On other subjects during the more than 40-minute question-and-

answer sesion, Bush said he woullike to see Palestine Liberation Organic nization Chairman Yasser Ar 'speak out" against raids that ha been carried out by Palestinian gue rillas against Israelis in souther

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Lebanon. Bush said he hoped these i dents would not jeapordize talks with PLO representatives said he thought that Arafat sho forthrightly condemn any ter that might be perpetrated by the la

President intends to replace immigration head, source says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 1986 immigration reform law, while Bush administration will replace provided for massive amnesty for Alan C. Nelson as head of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, an administration source said Tues-

Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, who recently received a department audit that criticized management and operations of INS, is searching for someone to take over the agency, said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The source confirmed a report in Tuesday's editions of the Los Angeles Times that Nelson would be not be kept as INS commissioner in the Bush administration.

It has been long presumed by department watchers that Nelson, along with most other political offi-ceholders in the Justice Department, would be replaced.

Nelson, a San Francisco lawyer close to former Attorney General Edwin Meese III, became INS commissioner in 1982.

rights advocates for being slow to implement the provisions of the manent resident alien cards

gal aliens. INS became embroiled in a m ber of lawsuits charging that it was improperly making it difficult for legal aliens to obtain legal status w der the new law.

The Justice Department and completed two weeks ago, cited IN for its failure to conduct background checks on many applicants for izenship and found that 23,000 w able naturalization certificates been lost by the agency's Miami gional office.

The special audit, conducted Thornburgh's request by the Just Department's management division raised "serious questions which rculati being reviewed now at the high levels of the department," spoke man David Runkel said last week.

Besides losing naturalization of fications, which had a street value up to \$115 million, INS was cite the audit for failing to take ac He was criticized by immigrant two years after investigators had covered that 61,500 naturalized zens had not surrendered their

Premier: Soviet economic reform started 2 years before Gorbachev

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet reformers began planning their economic program two years before Mikhail S. Gorbachev came to power in 1985, Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov said Tuesday, and he implied that they molded communist ideology to fit.

"We had to find theoretical foundations for all the actions that we wanted to pursue afterward," Ryzhkov

"We have to have a lot of patience to implement what we have decided, because the scale of the country is so vast," he told 33 women journalists gathered in ornate St. Catherine's Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace on the eve of International Women's Day.

Ryzhkov said planning for perestroika — Gorbachev's program of economic and social reforms — began two years before Gorbachev was elected head of the Communist Party. That would be in 1983, about the time former KGB chief Yuri Andropov came to power.

Even at that time, we had forces who understood that everything was not healthy in our economy," Ryzh-

For the first two years after Gorbachev took over in 1985, they worked on theory that would support their

Gorbachev has rejected many long-standing Soviet principles in his effort to revive a sickly economy. He is trying to do away with a system in which Moscow bu-reaucrats decide what is produced throughout the country, and trying to transform the word "profit"

from the height of capitalist evil to a measuremen socialist success

Ryzhkov also promised to reveal the long-secret viet defense budget in 12 to 18 months, after acco tants have arranged it in a form comparable to U.S. ures, apparently for use in arms negotiations.

As part of the plan to shift Soviet spending "fr swords to plowshares," defense factories that produced opercent military hardware and 40 percent consumments of the produced will move to a 50-50 ratio by 1991 and 40-60 1995, he said. For example, the Moscow Aviation is tory soon will produce pasta, he said.

Ryzhkov, whose popularity soared in December NIONS when he was seen nightly on Soviet TV commiserative beast with Armenian earthquake victims, said he found its slow pace of economic reform the most upsetting process can turn of his job

"I like to see how the decisions we are taking in ading to Pe state bodies are implemented in the level of real in he said. That's why he enjoys visiting factories that mind him of the Ural Machine-Building Plant in Sy ovsk where his career began, "to feel the sme chine parts being manufactured, the smell of REAND

Ryzhkov blamed part of the country's problems corrupt bureaucrats, and he made no promises of quiting comed dividends from perestroika, saying 40 percent of bull-year control tory equipment must be replaced.

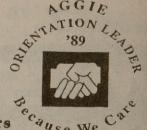


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