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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 conference, "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 in-

news conference statement to "restate my belief that free collective bargaining is the best means of resolving" the strike.

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 session, Bush said he would like to see Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat "speak out" against raids that have been carried out by Palestinian guerrillas against Israelis in southern Lebanon.

Bush said he hoped these incidents would not jeopardize U.S. talks with PLO representatives he said he thought that Arafat should "forthrightly condemn any terrorism that might be perpetrated by the Palestinians."

## President intends to replace immigration head, source says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration will replace Alan C. Nelson as head of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, an administration source said Tuesday.

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.

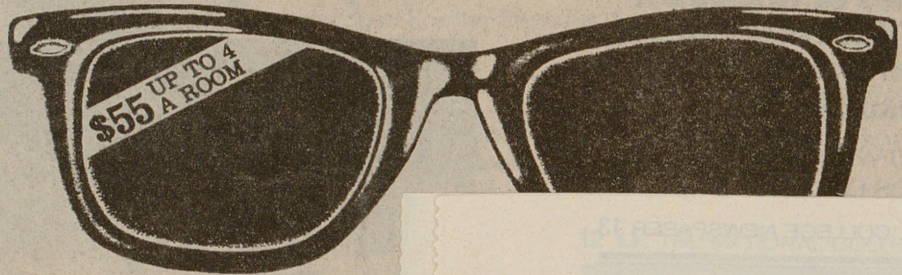
The source confirmed a report in Tuesday's editions of the Los Angeles Times that Nelson would be

replaced by a new head of the 1986 immigration reform law, which provided for massive amnesty for legal aliens.

INS became embroiled in a number of lawsuits charging that it was improperly making it difficult for legal aliens to obtain legal status under the new law.

The Justice Department audit completed two weeks ago, cited INS for its failure to conduct background checks on many applicants for citizenship and found that 23,000 valuable naturalization certificates had been lost by the agency's Miami regional office.

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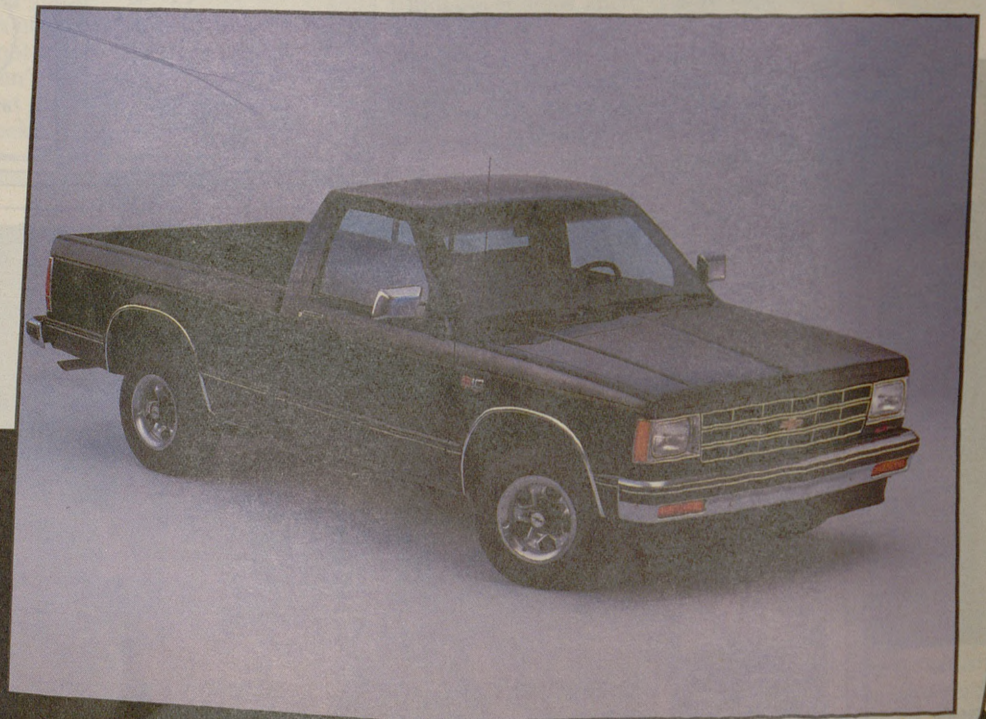
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