

I N T E R O F F I C E M E M O R A N D U M

Date: 17-Jun-1994 04:11pm CDT
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Subject: Labor. Dept. Request/Gephardt bill

Kevin/Loren:

Friday afternoon, Charlie Ross called me for a corporate "okay" to provide some information to the U.S. Department of Labor, which was seeking two or three examples of "best practices" at a manufacturing facility in Congressman Gephardt's district. How this came to pass was as follows:

o On June 7, Gephardt gave a speech in Washington on American competitiveness, in which he called for government/business/labor cooperation. At one point in the speech, he called for the creation of the "American Best Practices Program," as a companion program to the Baldrige Awards, to be administered by the Department of Labor. A copy of the Post-Dispatch article on the speech, as well as the speech itself, has been faxed to you.

o Yesterday (June 16), the appropriate section in the Labor Department was notified that Gephardt will introduce legislation on June 22 to create this program. The department is gearing up to be prepared -- backgrounders, news releases, etc. -- and is developing a list of examples of the kinds of "best practices" Gephardt is talking about. They thought it would be helpful to have some examples from Gephardt's home district. As I understand it, what they are looking for are examples of company/union cooperation which did something efficient, effective, whatever. It doesn't necessarily have to be limited to that, and can be redesign or TQM kind of stuff, but they are particularly hungry for union/company cooperation examples. (What came to mind was the coordinated flood effort last summer at Carondelet -- but I think they're looking for specific manufacturing examples.)

o Tom Helscher tried to contact but missed Gephardt's legislative director, Jim Hulley. He will call him Monday morning -- just to make sure this is coordinated with Gephardt's office. Tom supports providing the information if possible.

o The contact at the Labor Department is Steve Donahue. His phone number is 202/219-5769; his fax number is 202/219-4315. He needs something Monday morning, he says (he wanted something this afternoon).

o Charlie Ross had assigned Tim Wehrfritz to pull the info together, but Tim says he cannot touch this for a week. I told Tim

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I would talk with you guys to see if something might already exist.

Glynn

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