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Governor Christie: Everyone Showed Good Faith And Both Sides Got A Fair Deal

Friday, March 11, 2016

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Governor Christie: Everyone Showed Good Faith And Both Sides ...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_W2mExUHnZA&feature=youtu.be

Transcript:

Governor Christie: You're dealing with a dynamic situation, being run by human beings, so you can never be completely sure. And it is always much more complicated and that is why I think our negotiator did such an extraordinary job in dealing with 11 unions on the other side. So, there's always going to be some divergence of point of view, in that regard. That is why I was saying to all of you for the last few weeks, as this continued to have the drums beat about it. I never felt as if we were that far apart, that if we were acting in good faith we couldn't come to an agreement. I knew it was going to take my involvement to do it, but I don't come in two weeks ago. If you are the ultimate decision maker, which on this, from the government side of it I am, you do not come in until the very end. And I got great advice from our counsel, I came in when it was appropriate and we worked together to close the deal. So, I never felt that we were all that close to a strike from a realistic perspective, I knew there were hours got closer. No matter how hard we try we can't stop time, but the fact is that I always felt like people were acting in good faith. And I know the unions were acting in good faith and I know we were acting in good faith and that combination, listen, I don't believe the members of the union wanted to strike. They care about their customers. They do not want to hurt the customers and inconvenience them. They don't want to go without pay, and I think they only would have done it if they felt we were being unreasonable and not acting in good faith. And that is why I said I was not someone who favored a lockout because I felt like the union on the other side was operating in good faith and so everybody leaves all their options on the table. We leave lockout options on the table, they leave strike options on the table, because that's a responsible thing to do for the people that you are representing. But, I never felt as if we were in danger of a strike or a lockout because I really felt like everyone was showing good faith and you can tell I have been in enough negotiations in my life, you can tell when people are spoiling for a fight. Neither side here was spoiling for a fight. What they wanted was something that represented fairness to both sides and I think that is what we achieved.

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