

# U. S. Department of Transportation

# news:

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY DREW LEWIS  
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All striking air traffic controllers face an important decision -- perhaps the most important career decision of their lives.

They must decide, before 11 o'clock tomorrow morning, whether or not to return to work.

Let there be no mistake. The choice must be made; the decision cannot be deferred. The courts have ruled clearly, firmly and consistently.

I hope all controllers understand that there will be no turning back, no second chance.

In consultation with the President and approval of the Attorney General we will not start any criminal or Federal court civil action against persons who come back to work within the deadline set by the President.

Traffic controllers over a long period of service have made an important contribution.

For the good of this country and for themselves, I ask all controllers to come back to work. All who return will be fully accepted.

The decision is just that simple, and just that important.

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