William J. Usery Jr. made an important decision this past January to remain as director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and turn down an offer to become director of the AFL-CIO’s organizational and field services.

Usery, in addition to his role as the administration’s chief arbitrator, has been appointed a special assistant to President Nixon to coordinate energy decisions which affect labor.

David Nyhan of the BOSTON GLOBE says of Usery, “A widely heralded professional arbitrator, a Democrat who served on a missile site selection committee for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, a supporter of Sen. Hubert Humphrey for the Presidency, and a one-time Machinists’ Union official, Usery apparently heeded the call that his skills are sorely needed.

“If 1974 is as bad a year as a lot of people in labor and government think it will be,” Nyhan wrote, “we may have reason to be glad Usery stayed where he is. He’s one of the few people in the Administration who can talk to labor with any prospect of being listened to.”

Nyhan was right. No sooner had Usery assumed his new responsibilities, than he was pressed into service to solve the independent truckers’ strike which threatened the nation’s economy in February.
MARVIN MILLER

Executive Director
Major League Baseball Players’ Association

Marvin Miller is best known for his role in directing the Major League Baseball Players’ Association in their 1972 strike against baseball’s owners. That strike, which won numerous concessions from the baseball owners, including the right of players to independent binding arbitration of wage disputes, has resulted in an entirely new relationship between the players and management.

Miller, an economist, has a broad background in labor management. Prior to being named executive director of the Players’ Association in 1968, Miller was associated with the United Steelworkers of America for 16 years as director of research and assistant to the president.

He has served with the National War Labor Board, the Wage Stabilization Board, and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Miller was also a member of the National Labor-Management Panel, appointed to that panel by the late President Kennedy in 1963 and reappointed to a three-year term by President Johnson in 1964.