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The strike of the PATCO workers, or the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization, started on 8/3/1981. The air traffic controllers left their jobs so that they could disrupt the transportation of the nation. The strikers hoped that they could wreck the transportation system so badly that the federal government would have to give them what they wanted. This in fact was an illegal strike because federal employees were breaking the no-strike clause in their contracts. The PATCO thought that they could get away with the strike because in the several years leading up to the 1981 strike there had been twenty-two strikes by federal companies that were breaking the no-strike clause of federal jobs. After Reagan fired the strikers he did not regret his decision because he could not deal with people breaking the law and disrupting travel. Reagan also would not allow the strikers to work in the federal government ever again. Much of the American public did not empathize with the striking PATCO workers because they were making over the national average of money and the people believed that they should be happy with the amount of money they received. Also the airlines were really happy with Reagan's decision because they were losing about thirty million dollars a day because of the strike. The other organizations of labor were angry because they believed that Reagan was becoming a strikebreaker, but Reagan told the public that he supported organized labor but just fired all the PATCO people because there was a no-strike clause in their federal contracts. The public also liked the idea that a president was strong and was able to stand up for what he believes in and make decisions and stand by them.