

From the Office of:
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
1313 New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.
Capitol 4-3121, Ext. 2424

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY A.M.'s
MAY 21, 1964

HUMPHREY URGES CHURCH GROUPS TO STAY MOBILIZED
TO LEAD IN EXPANDING FRONTIERS OF OPPORTUNITY

Senate Majority Whip Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.)
said today that church groups should stay mobilized after
the Civil Rights Bill is passed so they can lead the second
stage in the struggle for equal rights.

"We are improving the Civil Rights Bill and will pass
it soon," he assured the American Baptist Convention in
Atlantic City. "This will complete the first step in the
fight for equal rights."

After that, Humphrey said, he hoped religious leaders
would take the initiative and lead their communities in
"expanding the frontiers of opportunity for all Americans"

"We still need your help in taking that second step,"
he said. "Wherever you live there will be vital work to
do."

The work of developing community feeling sympathetic
to equal rights in all areas--including jobs, housing and
voting--will fall largely to religious groups, Humphrey
said, because the problem essentially is a moral one.

"If you and others like you do your work well then
we shall move quickly toward that highly desirable state
of voluntary compliance with the principles of civil
rights," he said.

"No one welcomes a future in which the United States
would be torn by continuation of the conflict that has
existed."

Humphrey said the most important development in the
past year in American public life has been active partici-
pation of spiritual leaders of all faiths in the civil
rights struggle.

(OVER)

"This is the new margin of strength," he said. "And I want to tell you we are the luckiest people in the world that this has happened because too often people that should give leadership to a movement like this hesitate to do so-- professional people, business people, people in the middle income brackets."

When religious, business and professional leaders decline to participate in movements of this kind, Humphrey said, groups made up of extremists, or even Communists, have a chance to come in and take over.

"But instead of the Communists being able to take over the civil rights movement--even though they nibble at it and they try to infiltrate it--the civil rights movement to date has a guiding spirit from the churches, from the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths," he said.

Humphrey said the position taken by the Catholic Church on school desegregation in the South took spiritual courage that set the pattern.

"Then the National Council of Churches and then, of course, the Rabbinical groups, the Jewish groups have always had a close identity with these problems of minorities and of discrimination and intolerance."

Humphrey urged the Baptist leaders to do all they can to persuade the Senate to come to a vote on the Civil Rights Bill.

"Some of these men may even oppose the bill, I don't care," he said. "The immediate issue is to give the Senate the right to vote given that opportunity I am confident of the outcome."

###

Theme "Courage to Love"

Address by

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey

American Baptist Convention

Atlantic City, N.J.

May 20, 1964

Peace Keeping & Peace Making

- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom to Worship
- Freedom from Hunger
- Freedom from Fear
- Freedom of Dignity

✓ I believe in God
 ✓ I believe in Jesus Christ
 ✓ I believe in Brotherhood
 ✓ I believe in Love

I come to you today with good news. We are improving

the Civil Rights Bill and we will pass it....and we are

going to pass it soon. This will complete the first step

in a long, difficult struggle.

The fight was waged by you and other religious bodies

during the past few months and it has been magnificent.

I can tell you ~~that~~, as floor manager for this bill,

~~that~~ we could not have come this far without you.

"Peace with Justice"

Rev. Floyd Massey
 Belgian Baptist
 Church - St Paul

Mrs. Harold Hasser

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. & Dr.

~~Dr. Tuller~~
 Dr. Tuller
 Dr. Dahlberg

(12)
 Dahlberg
 Peace Ward

I want to congratulate you for your wonderful help

so far. The most important development in the past year

in American life has been the ^{actual} ~~wonderful~~ participation of the

spiritual leaders of all faiths in the civil rights

struggle.

Religious leaders
and the youth!

This is the new margin of strength. ~~And I want to~~

~~tell you we are the luckiest people in the world that this~~

~~has happened because~~ Too often people that should give

leadership to a movement like this hesitate to do so.

professional people, business people, people in the middle

income brackets. ^{and} When these people decline to take part

~~in movements of the kind that sometimes sweep the nation~~

~~and dominate the attention of~~ ^{then} the

extremists or ^{the} ~~even~~ Communists have a chance to come in

and take over.

Extremist

But instead of the Communists being able to take over the civil rights movement - even though they nibble at it and ~~try~~ try to infiltrate it - the civil rights movement to date has ~~been~~ *had* a guiding spirit from the churches, from the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths.

But I urge you not to let up. I urge you to remain mobilized even after the ~~final votes are recorded~~ *passage of Civil Rts legislation;*

~~because then~~ you must move on to take the lead in the second stage in our fight for civil rights. ~~We still~~ need your help in taking that important second step.

Wherever you live there will be vital work to do.

Unite our People - Not Divide
Tolerance - Kindness - Compassion
Love -

I ask you to
~~I hope you will~~

begin now planning how you will
lead your communities in expanding the frontiers of
opportunity for all Americans. You must think about working
on a day-to-day basis, using your influence where people
work, where they play, and where they worship. You
must do your part to insure that the Lord's light
shines on all our people - white or Negro - and that we
all can have an equal chance in this great land of
freedom.

If you - and others like you - do your work well,
then we shall move ~~quickly~~ steadily toward that highly desirable
state of voluntary compliance with the principles of
civil rights. No one welcomes a future in which the
United States would be stirred indefinitely by continuation
of the conflict that has existed.

There is a good reason for relying so heavily on religious leaders in moving to solve this great national problem. I said in the Senate as I opened the debate on the Civil Rights Bill that I had gone to the Scriptures to find the Golden Rule in the Gospel of

St. Matthew. The Golden Rule exemplifies what we are attempting to do in this Civil Rights legislation - and

later in our communities - "to do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

The reason why you and all the other American religious bodies have been asked to carry so much of the burden in this great crusade for human rights is that the struggle essentially is a moral one. ~~That is why the~~ work of developing community feeling sympathetic to equal rights for all - and that includes an end to discrimination in jobs, housing, voting and all the rest - ~~falls largely to~~ ^{needs the help of} religious leaders. ~~To put it~~ simply it is immoral to deprive a fellow American of the ~~rights guaranteed to him by his Constitution and his~~ ~~Creator.~~ ^{Creator.}

A To some extent, progress will come as Negroes themselves effectively exercise some of their rights - particularly the right to vote. I read the other night about a Negro businessman who was recognized as a leader in helping his associates enjoy a fuller range of citizenship in their community. Asked about his relationships with community leaders, many of whom were white, he said - "You can negotiate in an atmosphere of friendliness if you have the votes." How right he is ... all of us can count.

We also have to do something about the lack of jobs, adequate housing and educational opportunity for Negroes. We have to cope with these economic problems at the same time we work for equal opportunity and human dignity for all our citizens. ~~As the~~ ^{It was the} Negro comedian ^{who is} Dick Gregory said, it doesn't matter much if you can sit at a lunch counter if you don't have a dime for a cup of coffee.⁴

This problem also is illustrated by the words of a little Negro girl who was asked on a television show what her life ambition was.

Do you know what she said?

She said - "I want to marry a man with a job."

Just think of that.

The most marvelous thing she could think of for her future was not to marry a doctor, a lawyer, or even an astronaut...but simply a man with a job. I think that story tells us better than statistics why President Johnson's war on poverty is a vital part of the whole civil rights struggle.

Poverty

The immediate task at hand is getting a good Civil Rights Bill through Congress and on the President's desk. I urge you to put your hearts and your prayers to work now on persuading the Senate to let this matter come to a vote. Some of these men may even oppose the bill. ~~I don't care.~~ The immediate issue is to give the Senate the right to vote. Given that opportunity I am confident of the outcome.

Vote
Close

Poverty

✓ FOOD FOR PEACE
 ✓ PEACE CORPS
 ✓ HEALTH
 Peace
 For. Aied
 Alliance

Peace

U.S. -
 Trade
 cultural exchange
 DISARM.

Economic
Educational



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org