

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
429 Nicollet Hotel
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FOR RELEASE
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Unless the Administration reconciles its own internal differences and openly supports revision of the Taft-Hartley Act "to eliminate present injustices", President Eisenhower will be "breaking faith" with America's working men and women, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared Sunday (September 6) in an address at a Labor Day Picnic in Ely.

Senator Humphrey blamed "faltering leadership" for failure of the 83rd Congress so far "to make good on campaign pledges to modify the Taft-Hartley Act".

Senator Humphrey protested the Labor Department being "kept under wraps" during the recent session of Congress, rather than the Administration presenting Congress with its recommendations for improved labor legislation.

"If it was in the nation's interests for General Eisenhower to call for eliminating injustices in the Taft-Hartley Act last fall, it certainly should have been in the nation's interests for President Eisenhower to make his views known to proper committees of the Congress long before now", Senator Humphrey declared.

Senator Humphrey said he believed Secretary of Labor Durkin was "sincere" in seeking satisfactory revision of the controversial law, but that he was confronted with "stubborn opposition from reactionary elements within the Administration's high councils."

He deplored the off-again-on-again "strategy" of releasing proposed recommendations for Taft-Hartley changes then publicly repudiating them as not officially sanctioned by the White House, saying it appeared to be a case "of holding out the bait of hope to organized labor, yet at the same time trying to assure reactionary elements that nothing will be done to upset the existing law."

Changes proposed in the "working draft" once released but later "denied parent-hood" by the Administration, according to Senator Humphrey, were primarily the same revisions recommended by the Senate Labor Subcommittee of which Humphrey was chairman more than a year ago.

"America's organized labor shouldn't and needn't settle for less, despite pressures that are now causing the Administration to back-track on its earlier promises," Senator Humphrey declared.

The changes are all intended to eliminate "obvious inequities" shown up in extensive hearings conducted by the Senate Subcommittee into operations of the Act, Senator Humphrey said.

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