

From the Office of
Citizens for Humphrey Committee
1625 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Federal 9-0521

For Release: Saturday a.m.'s
September 10, 1960

HUMPHREY TO FIGHT 'RIGHT-TO-WORK' LAWS

ST. PAUL, Sept. 9 -- Senator Hubert H. Humphrey said here tonight a major aim of his efforts in the next Congressional session will be repeal of Federal legislation authorizing state "right-to-work" laws.

The Senator denounced "right-to-work" laws as "shamefully dishonest attempts to prevent free collective bargaining and the development of responsible, effective union organizations.

Humphrey spoke at a statewide AFL-CIO meeting in the St. Paul Labor Temple.

He pledged work next year to marshal Congressional support for his effort to repeal the Taft-Hartley labor law section (14b) which "tends to encourage 'right-to-work' laws in the States."

"This section sets a unique precedent in Federal law," Humphrey said. "It invites the States to override Federal law by encouraging them to approve legislation that is far more restrictive than Federal statute."

The Senator reported that in secret elections conducted among union members, "more than 97 percent of working men and women expressed opposition to 'right-to-work' laws."

The Senator said that the phrase "right to work" has been adjudged "a fraudulent slogan by high courts, intended to conceal attempts to outlaw voluntary union shop agreements between management and labor through collective bargaining."

Excerpts of Remarks by
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
Before the
Statewide Labor Meeting
St. Paul Labor Temple

Friday, Sept. 9, 1960, 7:30 p.m.

It is good to be back in Minnesota again.

This is home. I like it here. I like seeing
my friends. I particularly like being able
to meet with the working men and women who
have helped make Minnesota a proud, liberal
state respected throughout the nation.

And I like this campaign. This is
the chance to travel once again through every
part of Minnesota. This is the chance to try
to inform -- and try to learn -- by talking
with the people. This is the chance, yes, to
clear the air of vague political talk and

challenge the opposition to come down off
the fence of campaign expediency.

But, you know, I am itching to get back
to Washington -- despite my love for Minnesota
and its people.

I am itching to get back to Washington
because I sense a victory for the forces of
progress and liberalism in November.

After that victory, we are going to have
a government which will work for solutions
to the problems of America and her people.

My friends, next January Hubert Humphrey
will be itching to start that work.

He will plow into a new effort to establish
an effective medical care program for our elderly --

administered through the Social Security System.

He will plow into the task of winning a victory for a minimum wage of \$1.25 an hour for all working men and women.

He will plow into the legislative job of building for the nation, of investing in America through programs to give us better schools, more hospitals, expanded housing programs.

Let me tell you tonight -- in detail -- about one of the major aims of your senior Senator next January.

That will be to get Congress to repeal the section of the Taft-Hartley law which authorizes State "right-to-work" laws.

I pledge everything in my power to strike this authorzation from Federal statutes. For "right-to-work" laws are shamefully dishonestattempts to prevent free collective bargaining.

Here are eight reasons why I feel so strongly about the need to repeal Section 14b of the Taft Hartley law:

One: This section of the Taft-Hartley Act sets an unique precedent in federal law. It invites states to override federal law by approving legislation, aimed at destruction of collective bargaining, that is far more restrictive than federal statute.

Two: This authorization for so-called "right-to-work" laws pits state against state in a contest for runaway industries at the expense of working men and women.

Three: So-called "right-to-work" laws are part of a continuous campaign of attack on all rights of organized labor, and are in truth invidious examples of class discrimination in law.

Four: The "right-to-work" phrase has been adjudged by high courts a fraudulent slogan deliberately intended to conceal the true purpose of this legislation. The true purpose of "right-to-work" laws is to outlaw voluntary

union shop agreements between management and labor through collective bargaining.

Five: So-called "right-to-work" laws are opposed by a great proportion of responsible leaders of business and industry. They oppose such restrictions on collective bargaining and believe that the union shop is the most workable arrangement in labor-management relations.

Six: "Right-to-work" laws have been denounced as immoral, unwise and harmful to the common good by a preponderance of church leaders of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths.

Seven: "Right-to-work" laws are opposed almost

unanimously by the 17 million men and women who are members of organized labor. In a series of 46,119 secret ballot polls conducted among union members on the question of the union shop by the National Labor Relations Board, 97.1 percent of the votes were cast for the union shop. General election results in 1958 also make conclusive reading.

Eight: Hourly and weekly wage scales and annual income of workers in "right-to-work" states, generally are far below the wages and income of workers in non-right-to-work states. The effect of such laws is to perpetuate these below average wage scales and to prevent

organization of workingmen and women that
could bring about betterment of their wages
and working conditions.

September 9, 1960



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