

SUBJECT: "The Whips On The 87th Congress"

PARTICIPANTS: Senator Thomas H. Kuchel (R.-Calif.)  
Senator Hubert Humphrey (D.-Minn.)

MODERATOR: Harry W. Flannery

Time: 13:25

FLANNERY: WASHINGTON REPORTS . . . TO THE PEOPLE!

For the first time in eight years, a Congress with a Democratic majority meets with a Democrat as President.

What can we expect from this Congress?

The Democratic and Republican whips answer. The Democrat is Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota. The Republican is Senator Thomas H. Kuchel of California.

This radio station and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization talk first with Senator Humphrey in his office in the new Senate Office Building here in Washington.

Senator, what do you expect from the new session of Congress?

HUMPHREY: Well, I expect definite results, accomplishment and much less of argument and more concrete advance. I believe that we will pass medical and hospital care for our elderly under social security. I'll say we will do this because we will have the active strong support of a strong President. We will pass minimum wage legislation -- \$1.25 an hour -- with expanded coverage.

FLANNERY: How many do you expect will be included in the expanded coverage, Senator?

HUMPHREY: I suppose that all of us would like to get what we would want out of this but I have learned around here that you don't always get that, so let us say -- this will be just a broad guess -- maybe 6 or 8 million additional coverage. There will have to be some exemptions in order to pass the legislation.

We will surely work on a farm program. We will pass housing and urban renewal legislation. I think this is very important for our economy and for our sick cities. We have some real problems in our cities today. We ought to pass a depressed areas bill quickly. It is vitally needed because there is a deepening recession in America. There are spotty areas -- when I say spotty areas I mean unemployment and chronic distress -- we have some of those areas in Minnesota and I am deeply concerned about this and the Douglas task force, Senator Douglas' committee, has prepared appropriate legislation. We hope to act on that quickly, we have all kinds of hearings.

One of the advantages we have, sir, is that we had hearings on practically all of these subject matters. It is merely a matter of now bringing up to date, getting the latest testimony and information and then moving with precision and with a President that will exercise the powers of his office, and give us leadership -- effective leadership -- and get behind this type of program we ought to move rather -- I won't say quickly -- but surely.

FLANNERY: What about civil rights? Do you expect any new legislation in that field, Senator?

HUMPHREY: We need to improve our civil rights legislation. Programs will be presented to the Congress to strengthen civil rights programs, but I would expect that the first action will come from the executive branch of the government. This is long overdue and can be every bit as helpful as legislation. I predict with confidence that President Kennedy will move quickly and firmly in the field of civil rights activity, not only with executive orders in terms of contract compliance on all federal government purchases -- and this will have a tremendous impact because of the vast amount

of government contracts in the Defense Department in particular and public works -- but also in appointments of key people from so-called minority groups. Qualified people to demonstrate that we in America recognize talent and ability and are not in any way inhibited by color or prejudice that comes from race, religion or national origin.

We will also have activity in the field of housing. I am sure that -- I have reasons to believe let me put it that way -- that the new President, with executive order, will take action on so-called discrimination problems in the field of housing. And, in Congress, we ought to strengthen our civil rights act on voting protection and on general civil rights -- that's the old Title 3 Section.

Whether we will be able to get all this quickly I don't know, but we will get it. It will come.

FLANNERY: What about the foreign field? What, first of all about defense, Senator Humphrey?

HUMPHREY: Well, I don't claim to be any great expert in that but I have read the reports on the defense areas and the Symington Committee report laid down a very broad re-organization program. I would be less than honest if I said that I thought all of that could be accomplished because of all the places in the government where you really run into the immovable object and the irresistible force it is the Pentagon. The lines are pretty firmly drawn. Nevertheless, there will be a determined effort to improve the organizational structure of our defense system. And that means re-organization in the Department of Defense -- the elimination of some duplication.

It will also require a complete review of our defense posture. I think that the defenses of our country need to be strengthened. I surely believe that we need to take a good look at our scientific research program in space in which the President-Elect has already indicated keen interest and also in our overall defense system, not only that of the United States defenses but our allies. So, let's simplify it, a strengthened defense, maybe with a greater diversification.

FLANNERY: If we have a stronger and more efficient defense system, do you think the chances for some form of disarmament are better, Senator?

HUMPHREY: I do. It sounds paradoxical and sometimes people say "How can you, Senator Humphrey, be an advocate of disarmament on the one hand and then constantly say that we must be strong in our defenses?" I say that the only way you can get disarmament is to be able to go to that conference table strong enough to command respect and have something to disarm about. We have been unilaterally disarming in the name of budgets and I think sometimes in the name of inefficiency and lack of attention to the job. So, disarmament and the cause of world peace is dependent on two things. First of all, a willingness on the part of our country and other countries to engage in these negotiations sincerely and seriously, with purpose. And, secondly, to command enough respect, so that when you go to the disarmament table or the conference table, you go there strong, unafraid and, I think that will at least draw the attention of the Soviet Union to the firmness of our purpose.

FLANNERY: Thank you very much, Senator Humphrey.

A few doors down the hall in the same building is the office of Senator Kuchel.

Senator Kuchel there has been a lot of talk about the reform of the electoral college. What do you think about that?

KUCHEL: There is no question in my mind that the electoral college is a mischief maker and while it may have performed a useful service back in the 1790's, it is now antiquated and needs to be revised or eliminated out-right. And, I think, at the same time, that the Congress undertakes to study the best means of improving that situa-



tion, we also need to give our attention to the problems of national political parties as they exist today in their quadrennial conventions. I think some study also ought to be given to the possibility of a direct primary by the people.

FLANNERY: Do you think there is any chance of this subject coming up in the current session of Congress?

KUCHEL: There is indeed. The Democratic leader in the Senate, Mike Mansfield, will come forth with one proposal, Senator Margaret Smith, a Republican, also has indicated that she will sponsor general legislation in this field. Yes, it will come up and I think the American people have begun to understand the need of change here and to that extent can constitute a prod on the Congress to get something done. It is a difficult problem. A lot of votes in the Congress are going to be cast on the basis of the states from which the voting members come and, of course, in a very real sense I suppose it is true that small states are jealous of the advantage which they have under the current electoral college procedures. Nevertheless, I do believe that Congress can face up to this problem and with the insistence of the people of America, can provide, in the next two years, some vehicle which will improve the present situation.

FLANNERY: What are some of the issues that you think are among the most important that should be acted upon otherwise by this current Congress?

KUCHEL: The Congress, will, of course, need to face up to the kind of relations that the United States will maintain with countries overseas, both individually and through a system of collective alliances. In that same field is the crucially important problem of trade. A group of nations, for example, Mr. Flannery, can agree upon defense problems in a matter of days but any time you start mentioning the problem of trade, you run into conflicting ideologies and conflicting views and conflicting national interests. This, however, for the people of the United States, the economy of our country and beyond that, the healthy economy of free nations around the globe will be one of the most thorny, ticklish and troublesome problems which the new administration and the new Congress will have to deal with. Reciprocal trade legislation, for example, will now expire. And Congress, in dealing with this subject, will also be compelled to recognize what has taken place with respect to our imbalance in trade, the problems of our depleted gold reserve and the myriad of side issues which surround this extremely important question.

Some views have already been expressed on re-organization of the defense department. I simply hope that the new President will be able to make specific recommendations in this field or none at all, because, sometimes, I think we re-organize a little too much and I am convinced that Congress would not act hastily here.

I haven't even mentioned, so far, the great myriad of domestic issues which face us. In some of them, both the Republican and Democratic platforms agree that action is necessary. Aid to education, for example, is such a type of joint commitment by Democrats and by Republicans. I hope that in this connection, we are able to adopt legislation which will be approved by both Houses which will not, once again, be stuck in the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives and which can go to the President with the assurance of his signature. Many other similar problems occur to me, minimum wages, for example, is something that both Republican and Democratic platforms promised the American people, and yet, here again, the Congress was frustrated in the last session in going forward with this subject.

FLANNERY: What about other subjects such as, for instance, housing?

KUCHEL: The people in the Congress will again be compelled to face up to passing a housing bill which will give a stimulus to the construction of homes by the home building industry and likewise give an incentive to the American people who buy homes. To that extent,

housing legislation is overdue. I hope that the difficulties which prevented enactment of housing legislation in the last session may be overcome and to that extent that we can make progress in a field that has lain considerably barren in the last two years but which, nevertheless, is of importance to the economy of our country and, generally, to the social health of our people.

FLANNERY: One of the things you said is that it would be helpful to the economy of our people, of our country. This is one of the areas in which action is necessary as I imagine you see it, Senator Kuchel?

KUCHEL: There is no question about that. And, I think any time you back a member of Congress into a corner, he must concede that his first responsibility is to the people of America, to the health and economic welfare of his fellow citizens. And, here is an opportunity for the Congress to pass legislation that will be in the nature of an honorable stimulus to construction in America.

FLANNERY: Thank you, Senator Thomas H. Kuchel of California, the Republican whip of the new 87th Congress, and Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota, the Democratic whip.

To keep informed on Congress, your reporter, Harry W. Flannery, invites you to be with us each week at this same time as this radio station and the AFL-CIO bring you this public service educational program: WASHINGTON REPORTS . . . TO THE PEOPLE!

January 16, 1961

DECEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT HEAVIEST FOR MONTH IN ENTIRE POST-WAR PERIOD

Washington--The nation's unemployment situation in December just before the presidential inauguration of John F. Kennedy--was the worst for the month in the entire postwar period, the government has reported.

Unemployment jumped 509,000--three times the normal increase--to a December record of 4.54 million.

The key seasonally-adjusted rate of unemployment climbed from November's 6.3 percent to 6.8 percent--also a record high for postwar Decembers. This meant 68 of every 1,000 workers were both looking for jobs and could not find them.

The Kennedy Administration is "inheriting a very serious recession," declared Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.), outgoing chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, when the figures were released.

Dr. Seymour Wolfbein, Labor Dept. manpower expert, told reporters that if the jobless rate held at 6.8 percent, the total unemployed would be 5.5 million in January, 5.6 million in February, 5.4 million in March and 4.9 million in April.

"The real brunt of this (unemployment) is taken by the factory and production worker," Wolfbein said. He pointed out there has been a decline of 639,000 production workers between December 1959 and December 1960.

Wolfbein also noted that the number of workers drawing unemployment compensation hit a record high for the last week in December, rising to 3 million. This was 900,000 higher than a year earlier. The industrial states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, California, Michigan, New York and Illinois accounted for two-thirds of the rise, he added.

He also stressed that while steel employment has plummeted by 200,000 jobs since February, the job declines now embrace the entire manufacturing area.

Total employment fell by 1.2 million over the month to 66.0 million for December. The report called this a "sharper than usual" drop even after allowing for a normal seasonal decline of 700,000 in agriculture and the termination of jobs for some 250,000 election workers.

Of the total 4.5 million jobless, some 2.1 million, or 46 percent of the total, were unemployed less than 5 weeks.

The long-term jobless total--at 1 million--was 200,000 higher than December a year ago and was exceeded in the entire postwar period only by the 1.3 million of the 1958 recession.

The worst--off of the long-term jobless was the group of 499,000--one-half of the total--who have been seeking work in vain for 27 weeks or longer.

The December report disclosed a worsening trend for breadwinners. Speaking of the overall jobless figures, the report said:

"The unemployment rate for married men reached 5.1 percent in December 1960 as compared with 3.6 percent a year earlier. These workers constituted a little over one-third of the unemployed a year ago but they have accounted for three-fifths of the increase since that time." (1/16/61)



January 16, 1961

## EDUCATIONAL TV NETWORK FEATURES QUALITY INSTEAD OF COMMERCIAL

(Note to Editors: This story on the National Educational Radio and Television Center is sent to accompany the announcement, previously sent you, on the new TV program series, "Briefing Session," presented by the AFL-CIO and the NET.)

Washington--The National Educational Radio and Television Center, with which the AFL-CIO will join in presenting the new television series, "Briefing Session," is a "fourth network" devoted to quality instead of commercials.

NET, as it's generally called, is the headquarters for 49 independent, non-commercial TV stations scattered across the country. The number of such stations is growing fast, and would grow faster if enough TV channels were made available to them by the Federal Communications Commission.

During the morning and early afternoon, NET stations primarily broadcast classroom material for local schools and colleges. In the late afternoon and evening they devote themselves to programs of general interest.

Although NET viewers don't see such commercial programs as Marshal Dillon, Michael Shané and Jack Paar, what they get is by no means dull. Critics have described NET music and dancing programs as the best ever produced. A basic principle of the network is that good shows can be exciting, too.

NET currently supplies its affiliates with 10 hours of programs a week, with the remainder of the schedule being filled by the individual stations. Some NET shows are developed and produced by a member station and made available to the network; some are obtained from top independent producers, here and abroad; others, like "Briefing Session," originate with NET itself.

In the absence of commercials, the costs of educational television are met by foundations (such as the Ford Foundation), units of government (as with the material used in public schools) and corporations or other organizations that underwrite specific programs. The AFL-CIO's role in "Briefing Session" falls into the last category.

NET devotes all its time to the type of public service to which every commercial TV station, according to the law, is supposed to devote a reasonable part of its time. Unfortunately, as columnist John Crosby and many others have noted, the commercial stations have not fulfilled their obligations, and the FCC has done little or nothing to bring them into line.

The FCC has reserved 267 channels for educational television, but 179 of them are UHF (ultra-high frequency), which can't be seen on the ordinary home TV set without the installation of a converter.

Moreover, the VHF channels (the ones that run from 2 to 13 on your tuning knob) assigned to education are often in small, out-of-the-way places. Such big cities as New York, Washington, Cleveland and Los Angeles have no educational stations at all; others, such as Detroit, Atlanta and Cincinnati have only UHF outlets.

Thirty-seven of NET's 49 affiliates are on VHF channels that any set can pick up, but they still leave major areas uncovered. The AFL-CIO will try to reach these areas by urging commercial stations to broadcast "Briefing Session" on public service time at an hour that will assure a good audience.

A complete schedule of "Briefing Session" telecasts will be published in the AFL-CIO News as soon as it is available. 1/16/61

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January 16, 1961

## HUMPHREY, KUCHEL PREDICT FAST-MOVING CONGRESSIONAL SESSION

Washington--Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), new Democratic whip of the 87th Congress predicted that Congress will accomplish more and argue less in the current session, as he was interviewed on Washington Reports to the People, AFL-CIO public service educational program, heard on 450 radio stations.

Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel (R-Calif.), minority whip, pointed out on the same program that the Republican and Democratic platforms agree that action is needed on a number of issues, such as aid to education.

Humphrey said Congress will pass medical and hospital care for the elderly under social security, raise the minimum wage to \$1.25 and extend coverage to 6 to 8 million more workers, pass a new farm program, and pass housing and urban renewal legislation and a program for area re-development. He also forecast executive action on civil rights.

"One of the advantages we have," the majority whip asserted, "is that we have had hearings on practically all these subjects. All we need to do is to bring them up-to-date, and then move. We have a President now who will exercise the powers of his office and give us leadership."

Kuchel stressed the need of passing a housing bill "which will give a stimulus to the construction of homes and also give an incentive to the people who buy homes."

"I hope," he said, "that the difficulties which prevented enacting of housing legislation in the last session may be overcome and we can make progress in a field that has laid considerably barren in the last two years but which is most important to the economy of the country."

In speaking of the need for reform of the Electoral College system for electing a President and Vice President, Kuchel said "we need to give some attention to the possibility of a direct primary by the people." The California senator said delay in enacting reform in the system may come from "small states jealous of the advantage they have under current procedures. But with insistence by the American people, I believe Congress can provide, in the next few years, a means of improving the present situation."

Humphrey, advocating a stronger and more efficient national defense, said, "The only way you can get disarmament is to go to the conference table strong enough to command respect. We have been unilaterally disarming in the name of a balanced budget."

He predicted executive action in the areas of defense contracts, public works contracts and housing to strengthen our civil rights position.

(NOTE TO EDITORS: Mats of Humphrey and Kuchel during interviews being sent under separate cover.) (1/16/61)

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## HALLBECK ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' COUNCIL

Washington--Pres. E. C. Hallbeck of the Post Office Clerks has been elected chairman of the AFL-CIO Government Employees' Council. He succeeds Letter Carriers Pres. William C. Doherty who was not a candidate for re-election. Jerome J. Keating, Letter Carriers, was elected vice chairman and Orrin A. Burrows, Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, secretary-treasurer. Trustees chosen were James A. Campbell, Government Employees, Russell M. Stephens, Technical Engineers, W. H. Ryan, Machinists, Paul A. Nagle, Postal Transport Association, William D. Buck, Fire Fighters, and James F. Bailey, Carpenters. (1/16/61)

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*file transcript & pic*

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January 17, 1961

The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey  
The Senate Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator:

Many thanks for your cooperation in connection with the recent program in the WASHINGTON REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE series.

Enclosed are a picture which was taken at the time of the taping and a script of the program. Also please note page 3 of the AFL-CIO News Service which is sent to 450 AFL-CIO newspapers.

If you would like to have additional copies of either, please let us know.

Cordially yours,

Harry W. Flannery  
Radio Coordinator

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Enclosures





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