

SUBJECT: "The 87th Congress First Session -- Success or Failure?"

PARTICIPANTS: President John F. Kennedy (Excerpt from State of the Union Message)  
Senator Hubert Humphrey (D.-Minn.)  
Senator Thomas H. Kuchel (R.-Calif.)

MODERATOR: Harry W. Flannery

Time: 13:24

FLANNERY: WASHINGTON REPORTS . . . TO THE PEOPLE!

President Kennedy in his State of the Union Message delivered to Congress when he first assumed office in January:

KENNEDY: I speak today in an hour of national peril and national opportunity. The answers are by no means clear. The outcome is by no means certain. All of us together, this Administration, this Congress, this nation, must forge those answers.

FLANNERY: How did Congress respond? Was the first session of the 87th Congress a success or a failure?

The majority and minority whips of the Senate answer -- Senator Hubert Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota and Senator Thomas H. Kuchel, Republican of California.

Your reporter, Harry W. Flannery, talks first with Senator Kuchel in the Senate Radio Gallery in the Capitol -- for this radio station and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Senator Kuchel, in estimating what Congress has done this year, I imagine that one of the first things of importance is the international situation because of Berlin, because of what we faced in Laos. How did Congress measure up?

KUCHEL: The very security of the people of the United States is at stake today -- the security of the free world likewise. To its eternal credit, the Congress responded to the requests which the President made to increase appropriations in the field of the defense establishment and to continue what has been a highly successful, bi-partisan policy of providing assistance to friendly free peoples when that assistance would help the security of the people of the United States. I very much regret that some in the Congress and some in the country have opposed even our giving military assistance to free peoples. But, at any rate, again acting as Americans, the overwhelming majority of the people in this Congress responded to the President's requests to continue a program that prevailed under Eisenhower and under Truman in past years.

Just one example: I recently talked to the Prime Minister of Greece who told me, that had it not been for mutual security assistance, both military and economic, by this country to the people of Greece, there would be no free Greece today. It would be, in his opinion, one more Soviet Communist satellite. That sort of example, Mr. Flannery, can be demonstrated again and again.

FLANNERY: What about the domestic field, Senator Kuchel? How well did Congress do in this and what are some of the outstanding things which they did do?

KUCHEL: We made progress in a number of fields and I must say here that in many instances the platform of my party -- the Republican Party -- and that of my friends in the Democratic Party, recognized the same goals and endeavored last year to promise the American people that we would try to tend towards them.

Thus, for example, I think one of the achievements of this Congress was to provide by law that there shall be a minimum wage for those covered by the Wage and Hour Law of \$47.50 a week which will go to \$50 a week. I doubt very much that anyone ought to quarrel with a

minimum wage of \$50 a week in America these days. At any rate, that was an advancement. We provided, also, for a continuation of the highway program during the time that we were suffering from economic recessions in various parts of the country, we provided for temporary additional unemployment compensation benefits, we gave the home construction industry an incentive to continue constructing homes and we gave the potential home-buyers an additional incentive to purchase homes. We continued programs of urban redevelopment and college housing, which, in my judgment, are responsive to the needs of the people.

Sometimes some of the recommendations of the President in my judgment, constituted too much spending and, exercising my own responsibility as a senator, I opposed them. All in all, however, I think that we have made some real progress in the field of domestic legislation in the country during this very long session of the Congress.

FLANNERY: Do you think that what was done will have a material effect on unemployment which continues rather high, Senator Kuchel?

KUCHEL: Yes, I do. I say that for a number of reasons. I think that the legislation which we have passed this year tends to underpin the national economy, something that all Americans, no matter what partisan faith they have.

FLANNERY: One of the items in which the Congress did not carry through with the plans of some of the leaders was in the field of education. Do you think we can do anything about that next year, Senator?

KUCHEL: Not unless the people of this country realize that we need to give young people in America the best possible education. And I must say that there is no justification for the 93,000 school children in California who attend school half-days today. There is no justification for the almost one million pupils in the country who attend half-day schools because they do not have either the school houses or the school teachers to cope with this burgeoning school population. The problem of educating the youth of America is one that concerns every family in this land.

FLANNERY: One other item of the agenda for next year is Rule XXII -- in regard to closure, Senator Kuchel. What about that?

KUCHEL: I think that the filibuster is one of the greatest evils of the American people as it is permitted to operate in the United States Senate. A filibuster is no good. When you and I have to stay up night and day in the United States Senate because some long-winded senators are making speeches simply to prevent the possibility of vote, it is wrong, it is undemocratic. The filibuster rule is going to be eliminated one of these days. My party's platform promised it, my friends in the Democratic Party indicate that they, too, oppose it. Little by little we will move to the point where we will have enough senators to eliminate the filibuster from the rules of procedure in the Senate.

FLANNERY: Thank you, Senator Kuchel, minority whip. Next to the office of Senator Humphrey, majority whip, in the Senate Office Building. Senator, all in all, would you say this has been a good session of the Congress, or a bad one?

HUMPHREY: I would say it has been a good session of the Congress and it has been a working session of Congress and it has been a session of accomplishment and of real social and economic gains.

FLANNERY: What can you count on the plus side, Senator Humphrey?

HUMPHREY: I would start right out by saying that we started to meet the recession head on, with positive action from this Administration, both on the part of the President by executive order, where expenditures were stepped up in the Congress, the temporary unemployment compensation extension, the improvement in the minimum wage -- which was a landmark in terms of social legislation -- the social security program, the expansion of our highway program. We

put that right back on the road, so to speak, we took the stretch out of it and put it back on schedule. There was our tremendous airport program, our military construction program. We had the greatest agricultural achievement in Congress since 1938. We re-organized the entire agricultural program. There was the peace corps, water pollution control, area redevelopment, housing, migratory labor.

FLANNERY: We realize this is a long list, and I also believe, Senator, that there has been a lot of emphasis in the minds of the people on the fights that we have had in the Congress rather than on the accomplishments which we are now trying to sum up. What still needs to be done, Senator Humphrey?

HUMPHREY: Medical care for our elderly people -- age 65 and over -- under social security. This will be done. This will be accomplished. The establishment of a Department of Urban Affairs, the improvement of our tax program, closing up some of these tax loopholes and bringing more equity in our tax laws. The Youth Conservation Corps Program which has tremendous support throughout the country, giving our young people a chance for good wholesome work. I hope that we will be able to revise our unemployment compensation statutes with Federal standards. We are hoping to do that. There will be urban renewal legislation -- that is for the extension of our urban renewal program. Medical education and expanded medical facilities. We got a good start on that in the first session of the 87th Congress with our health facilities act, which was adopted by both Houses and signed by the President with appropriations under way. There will be. . .

FLANNERY: Education, I think.

HUMPHREY: Oh yes, I meant to say that in the first session we were merely able to extend our national defense education act and the so-called Federal Impact Act. That is, special funds to go to communities where there is a high degree of Federal activity causing problems due to population growth and what have you. In the second session, we are going to make a determined effort to improve our entire overall education program. I am hopeful that we can do this in school construction and teachers' salaries. I say hopeful. I must confess that we have run into some very difficult situations but we are not quitting nor is the President quitting. We are going to try to press for effective and conclusive action in this area.

FLANNERY: We talked about domestic affairs, Senator Humphrey. We didn't go into those things which have to do with defense and with foreign aid.

HUMPHREY: We did not. One of the first accomplishments of the Administration was to re-evaluate our entire defense structure. By the way, when we talk about the accomplishments of this Congress, you cannot exclude or preclude the actions of the Executive because we work as a team. Now, the first thing that the President did was to order the new Secretary of Defense, Mr. McNamara, to re-evaluate, re-examine our entire defense structure, to bring it into better balance, to meet the world situation that presently confronts us. And we have done that. We have added billions of dollars to our defense. We had to patch up the holes of weakness in the defense. I must say there were several years in which in the name of economy, our defense structure was permitted to deteriorate.

And in the foreign aid, the first few months of the Administration were spent in the field of foreign aid re-studying the whole program, re-organizing it -- a complete reorganization -- from the Washington level to the country level all over the world in some 70 or 80 countries. That was a mammoth and massive job. A task force was assigned to that. We came up with an entirely new foreign aid program, with the emphasis upon development loans, with the emphasis upon development grants, with the emphasis upon human needs, upon health, upon education, upon food and fibre, upon housing,



upon cooperatives, upon trade unions. In other words, a foreign aid program, sir, that got to the people. Now, this took a lot of doing.

And here is, of course, where you heard about what we didn't do. Well, we did a lot. We didn't get all we wanted. Who does? I mean one of the things that I have learned in the Congress is that you seldom get all that you want and the Administration knows that; the President maybe sometimes asks for even a little more than he thinks he is going to get. But we got a good foreign aid program.

FLANNERY: On the whole, you feel that this has been a Congress of great accomplishment. However, there is much more to be done?

HUMPHREY: Yes, I think it has been a plus Congress. I think it has been a doing Congress, a working Congress and next year we will add the finishing touches to this stage in American history.

FLANNERY: Thank you, Senator Hubert Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota, Senate majority whip, and Senator Thomas H. Kuchel, Republican of California, Senate minority whip.

With this report of the first session of the 87th Congress by ranking representatives of our two parties, this program comes to an end for this year. This radio station and the AFL-CIO plan to resume this series of interviews with Republican and Democratic members of Congress on major issues before Congress when the second session begins in January. Your reporter, Harry W. Flannery and your engineer, Sidney Brechner, invites you to be with us then for this public service educational program, WASHINGTON REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE!

# # #

October 2, 1961

NLRB POLICY SHIFT UPHOLDS AGENCY SHOP IN INDIANA CASE

Washington--The National Labor Relations Board, in a sharp policy shift, has upheld the agency shop as a lawful subject for collective bargaining.

The ruling, involving a case in Indiana where the union shop is outlawed, does not necessarily set a precedent for other so-called right-to-work states, a board spokesman emphasized.

By a 4-1 vote the board nevertheless reversed a 3-2 decision handed down last Feb. 20, and ordered General Motors Corp. to bargain with the Auto Workers on an agency shop arrangement affecting some 14,000 non-union GM workers in nine Indiana plants.

The majority opinion was signed by the two new members appointed by Pres. Kennedy--Chairman Frank W. McCulloch and Gerald A. Brown--and by two Eisenhower appointees who were in the minority in the February decision--Philip Ray Rodgers and John H. Fanning. Boyd Leedom dissented.

The agency shop differs from the union shop in that employees are not required to become members of the union representing them, but must pay the union an amount equal to initiation fees and dues.

Indiana's "right-to-work" law was not at issue in the case, both GM and the UAW agreed. The company contended, instead, that the agency shop was outlawed on the federal level by the Taft-Hartley Act.

The NLRB majority nevertheless noted that the Indiana Appellate Court, on June 19, 1959, had found the agency shop to be legal under the state's "right-to-work" law.

But it remains to be seen what the board will decide if similar cases arise in other "right-to-work" states, the spokesman said.

Following the 1959 Indiana court decision, the UAW submitted proposals for an agency shop to cover GM employees in Indiana and filed an unfair practice charge after the company refused to bargain on the subject. The complaint was dismissed last February.

The board voted to reconsider the case at the request of the UAW. Supporting briefs were filed by the AFL-CIO, the Retail Clerks, the Commercial Telegraphers, the Steelworkers, and the Indiana Building & Construction Trades Council.

In reversing the earlier decision, the NLRB majority held the agency shop to be a lesser form of union security than the union shop, declaring that there was "no doubt" as to its legality in the light of the legislative history of the act. (10/2/61)

-----

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, GENERAL BOARD TO MEET IN NEW YORK

Washington--The AFL-CIO Executive Council will hold its fall meeting in New York City at the Commodore Hotel beginning Oct. 10.

The council sessions will be preceded on Oct. 9 by a meeting of the AFL-CIO General Board in the same hotel. The board, composed of a representative from each AFL-CIO affiliated union and department plus the council, will devote its one-day session to organizing problems. (10/2/61)

-----

## CONVENTION CALL SENT TO AFL-CIO AFFILIATES

Washington--The AFL-CIO has issued its official call for the federation's fourth constitutional convention declaring that in the face of "the mounting threat to freedom," labor must "fulfill without stint" its heavy responsibilities.

Signed by AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany and Sec.-Treas. William F. Schnitzler in behalf of the Executive Council, the call emphasizes the threat of war and the persistence in this country of substantial unemployment and declares that a "strong free labor movement" is an "indispensable force" in meeting the problems.

"We cannot afford the luxury of divisive quarrels," it asserts; "the times demand the best that is in us all. We must be united in carrying forward our common purpose."

The convention will open Dec. 7 in the Americana Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla. The call declares:

This fourth constitutional convention of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations meets under somewhat happier domestic and even grimmer international circumstances than its predecessor. The Soviet Union's threat to world peace and the unsolved need to achieve full, productive use of America's human resources cast a shadow over the record of solid achievements of the two years since we last met.

For a whole year unemployment has persisted at the intolerable level of nearly 7 percent of the labor force. In the face of rising production and a general improvement in other economic areas, more than 5 million able and willing workers remain jobless. Many have been idle for months on end; to many, the future seems only a dreary extension of the present.

Meanwhile, the population explosion that began two decades ago is now propelling into the labor force each year an additional 1.3 million job-seekers. The potential blessing of automation has become a dread specter, devouring old jobs faster than new ones are created.

These are sobering facts. They make it clear beyond question that fundamental and sweeping changes must be made to cope with them; and that the time to start is now.

If these were normal times, even this staggering problem could be approached with cautious hope. The election of Pres. Kennedy, with energetic support from the labor movement, restored a liberal philosophy to the White House. Events have justified our efforts in the 1960 elections.

With strong Presidential leadership and united labor backing, a significant number of long-pending social and economic improvements became law. Among them were a broader and better wage-hour law, aid to depressed areas, a truly comprehensive housing act and a realistic temporary extension of unemployment compensation. In addition, promising administrative actions were undertaken to promote equal job opportunity and voting rights.

Yet there were other disappointments aside from employment.

Comprehensive federal aid to education, desperately needed for years, was again frustrated in Congress.

Medical care for the aged has still not been made part of the social security system, despite tragic evidence of its necessity.

Equality of opportunity remains a distant dream for too many Americans, victimized by racial, religious and other forms of discrimination.

m o r e

October 2, 1961

## CONVENTION CALL SENT... (Cont'd.)

Repressive restrictions on legitimate union activities, shockingly intensified by the 85th Congress, remain in force, and new assaults on labor's rights are an ever-present danger.

Even so, after eight years of inertia the federal government has begun to move again, and has moved the country with it. In normal times, that in itself would tip the balance toward optimism.

But these are not normal times. The unsolved problems and modest gains just cited pale in significance beside the mounting threat to human freedom throughout the world.

The Soviet Union has embarked upon a new campaign of aggression, with West Berlin the first target, and it broke the nuclear bomb test ban. At any moment the fraudulence of Soviet words may give way to naked force. Never in history has mankind been so close to self-destruction.

To meet this peril our country must be strong--strong militarily, strong economically and strong spiritually, with unconquerable faith in our democratic society as the best and only instrument for achieving well-being, social justice and liberty for all.

That strength cannot be evoked without a strong, free labor movement. The labor movement is the indispensable force for progress at home--progress that must be made to keep bright the democratic ideal. The labor movement is an unwavering ally of the nation's defense and foreign aid objectives. The labor movement is a stalwart guide and exemplar to free trade unions overseas, whose creation and growth is essential to the establishment of stable, free societies in new and developing nations.

Those who strike at the labor movement, therefore, strike at the very roots of American liberty and the hopes of democracy throughout the world.

For our part, we in the labor movement must fulfill without stint the heavy obligations we bear. We must be conscious as never before of our grave responsibilities to our members, our country and the cause of freedom. We cannot afford the luxury of divisive quarrels; the times demand the best that is in us all. We must be united in carrying forward our common purpose.

These, then, are the tasks that confront the fourth constitutional convention of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations:

To shape a program for the perfection of American society and the full utilization of its human and material resources; to evolve, with that end in view, a campaign to expand the labor movement and confound its enemies; to strengthen our country and the free world against the Communist peril, and as a basic prerequisite for all these goals, to reaffirm and enhance the solidarity of our movement.

These are challenging tasks, but with the full support, determination and good will of all our affiliated unions, they can be fulfilled.

(10/2/61)

-----

## AFL-CIO AUXILIARIES ISSUE CONVENTION CALL

Washington--The third constitutional convention of the AFL-CIO Auxiliaries will be held in the Bal Masque room of the Americana Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla., from Dec. 7-11.

Full instructions on eligibility for representation are included in the convention call. Features include a luncheon for delegates and visitors on Dec. 9. (10/2/61)

-----



October 2, 1961

## RIVAL SENATE WHIPS LIST TASKS OF NEXT CONGRESS

Washington--The first session of the 87th Congress passed much needed legislation, but has a number of uncompleted tasks for action in the second session next year, Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), majority whip, and Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel (R-Calif.), minority whip, asserted in the final 1961 Washington Reports to the People AFL-CIO public service program heard on 450 radio stations.

"This has been a doing Congress, a working Congress and next year we will add the finishing touches to this stage in American history," Humphrey said.

Kuchel said that the Republican Party cooperated with the Democrats in such measures as minimum wage, highways, housing, urban development and defense. The Republican whip denounced some of those members of Congress who cut back foreign aid.

"I very much regret that some in the Congress and in the country have opposed even our giving military assistance to free peoples," he asserted.

Both said a fight will be made next year for federal aid for school construction and teacher salaries. Humphrey said he was hopeful of success in such efforts, but "I must confess that we have run into some very difficult situations in this field."

"But we are not quitting, nor is the President quitting," he asserted.

Kuchel said that whether federal aid is passed next year depends upon the public.

"Not unless the people of this country realize that we need to give young people in America the best possible education (will there be action in this field)," he declared. "I must say there is no justification for the almost 1 million children in the country who attend schools half-days because we do not either have the school houses or the school teachers to cope with the burgeoning population. The problem of educating the youth of America is one that concerns every family in this land."

Humphrey said that both Congress and the President "started (with the beginning of the Administration) to meet the recession head on." Toward this end he mentioned area redevelopment, temporary unemployment compensation extension, improvement of the minimum wage, the expansion of the highway program. He also included on the plus side: social security legislation, the airport program, military construction, the farm bill, peace corps, water pollution control, migratory labor, foreign aid, reorganization of the defense structure ("which for some years has been permitted to deteriorate in the name of economy").

Kuchel listed action on Rule XXII to end filibusters in the Senate as another 1962 "must." He said the filibuster "is wrong, it is undemocratic."

(NOTE TO EDITORS: Mats of Kuchel and Humphrey being sent under separate cover.) (10/2/61)

-----

## U.S. INFORMATION SERVICE SPREADS ARTICLE BY MINTON

Washington--An article by Pres. Lee W. Minton of the Glass Bottle Blowers will be given wide distribution by the U.S. Information Service.

The article, headed "Collective Bargaining at Its Best," appeared in the union's publication Glass Horizons and was reprinted in the book Labor's Story. It tells how union and industry cooperation produced benefits for workers and owners. (10/2/61)



# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**GEORGE MEANY**  
PRESIDENT

**WM. F. SCHNITZLER**  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

WALTER P. REUTHER  
WM. C. BIRTHRIGHT  
DAVID DUBINSKY  
WM. L. McFETRIDGE  
A. J. HAYES  
JACOB S. POTOFKY  
LEE W. MINTON  
O. A. KNIGHT  
PETER T. SCHOEMANN

GEORGE M. HARRISON  
JAMES B. CAREY  
DAVID J. McDONALD  
JOSEPH CURRAN  
JOSEPH D. KEENAN  
A. PHILIP RANDOLPH  
JOSEPH A. BEIRNE  
KARL F. FELLER  
L. M. RAFTERY

HARRY C. BATES  
WM. C. DOHERTY  
EMIL RIEVE  
MAURICE A. HUTCHESON  
L. S. BUCKMASTER  
RICHARD F. WALSH  
JAMES A. SUFFRIDGE  
PAUL L. PHILLIPS  
W. A. CALVIN



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

GEORGE MEANY  
WALTER P. REUTHER  
GEORGE M. HARRISON  
JAMES B. CAREY  
HARRY C. BATES  
DAVID J. McDONALD  
DAVID DUBINSKY  
WM. F. SCHNITZLER

815 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON 6, D.C. NATIONAL 8-3870

October 3, 1961

OCT 4 1961

The Honorable Hubert 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 is a transcript of the program. Also please note page 4 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,

Harry W. Flannery  
Radio Coordinator

HWF:mb  
oeiu#2-afl-cio

Enclosures



# 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](http://www.mnhs.org)