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FOR RELEASE: MONDAY P. M.
JUNE 11, 1962

HUMPHREY URGES LABOR-MANAGEMENT

PUSH FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) today urged an immediate labor-management survey of American industry's competitive position in relation to Western Europe.

The Senate Majority Whip suggested that the President's Labor-Management Advisory Committee order an "objective, factual and complete" study of the challenges presented by the booming European economy and the Common Market.

He proposed also that the Committee prepare specific recommendations for action by American industry and that a second White House Conference on National Economic Issues be called to consider the recommendations.

Humphrey was the main speaker at a convention here of the National Association of Direct Selling Companies.

"We need new action and new policies by both government and private industry to boost export of our products overseas -- and we need them now," Humphrey said.

"Let's face the fact that the economic growth of the United States is too little and too slow. It is time to shift from low to high gear and move the country ahead economically.

"Our allies and friends in Western Europe have experienced miraculous economic growth for the past several years. They are beginning to wonder -- with some justification -- why the American economy is moving at a snail's pace.

"A nation with a military establishment based on nuclear power and the techniques of the space age cannot afford to have an economy which lags and drags."

The Senator said that boosted exports of American products overseas "is a vital step necessary to dynamic economic growth."

"To sell more of our products overseas, we first need the approval of Congress for the President's Foreign Trade Expansion

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Act," Humphrey said.

"But we need more than just a government effort. If labor and management wish to preserve their freedom of action, they must take responsibility to analyze and -- if necessary -- to correct price, wage and other policies which limit our position to compete for overseas markets.

"The big economic challenge to the United States in the next decade will be competition in the international marketplaces.

"The big question is whether or not our private and individual system of free enterprise can compete with state capitalism and state monopoly.

"We face also the question of whether or not the American economy can meet and compete successfully with the high-powered, high quality, heavily financed competition of industrial Western Europe.

"These questions will be answered affirmatively if the President's trade program is approved and if American enterprise improves the efficiency of production and distribution.

"In the years ahead, American industry will need the constant cooperation of our government as industry seeks the development of new markets and seeks to find new customers for American goods and services.

"American industry needs to be given the same assistance in terms of export credit guarantees and export loans as are provided for industry in Western Europe, Japan and other areas.

"It is the responsibility of American industry and business to improve its competitive position with international markets. And it is the responsibility of government to provide the practical encouragement and incentive necessary to permit industry to compete effectively.

"If those two responsibilities are met, the United States will move ahead economically at a rate appropriate to this modern, space age."



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