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REMARKS Voting Process nature
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

CEREMONY RECOGNIZING 25 MILLIONTH VOTER

IN NLRB ELECTIONS WASHINGTON, D. C. MARCH 2, 1967

the President on this

I am honored to represent the President on this historic occasion, and to deliver these remarks on his behalf.

Today we mark a milestone in industrial democracy

With us is Leonard Paul Scheno, a maintenance technician of New Jersey. He is here because the ballot he cast symbolized the 25 millionth vote in a National Labor Relations Board election.

The right of American workers to a secret-ballot election to decide which, if any, union will represent them in collective bargaining was affirmed by the National Labor Relations Act of 1935.

The father of this landmark in labor legislation, Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York, said: "democracy cannot work unless it is honored in the factory as well as the polling booth; and ... men cannot be truly free in body and in spirit unless their freedom extends into the places where they earn their daily bread."

The right that Mr. Scheno has exercised is now commonplace in America. The 25 million votes cast in these elections is a figure close to one-third of the civilian labor force.

The National Labor Relations Board in 1935 held 31 elections; this year it will hold about eight thousand. 1935 only 7,734 workers voted; this year more than a half million will vote.

These elections have helped to make collective bargaining work for the benefit of labor, I management, and Po much letter now - Elect Bragaing untial of Use of every American.

These elections have helped to reduce work stoppages which cripple our national economy. For example the percentage of workers made idle by stoppages in 1950 was 6.9 per cent. Last year it was less than half -- 3.4 per cent.

These elections have helped millions of Americans achieve better pay, shorter hours, safer working conditions, and greater job security.

They have helped industry be more productive by assuring greater labor stability. -

In short, these elections have helped the American economy achieve three decades of unprecedented growth.

They have proved again the power of the secret ballot. On this Winston Churchill has said: "At the bottom of all the tributes paid to democracy is the little man, walking into the little booth, with a little pencil, making a little cross on a little bit of paper -- no amount of rhetoric or voluminous

discussion can possibly diminish the overwhelming importance of that point."

I congratulate all, in labor, management, and government who have helped to convert this power of the ballot into the better America we know today.

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