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Following labor newspapers:

The Unionist, Austin, Minn.

Emil Krieg, Minn. Labor, Mpls.

John Herling's LABOR LETTER, 1003 K St. N.W., Wash.

STEEL LABOR, 1500 Commonwealth Bldg., Pittsburg

TEXTILE & LABOR, 99 University Place, New York

MICHIGAN CIO NEWS, 803 Hoffman Bldg., Detroit

GUILD REPORTER, 99 University Place, New York

MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS, 1012 N. Third St., Milwaukee

WISCONSIN CIO NEWS, 952 N. 12th St., Milwaukee

Arthur Riordan, IUE NEWS, 734-15th St., N.W., Wash.

STEEL LABOR, 1900 Engineers Bldg., Chicago

Frank Winn, UAW, 8000 E. Jefferson St., Detroit

Henry Fleischer, CIO NEWS, 718 Jackson Pl. N.W., Wash

Irving Fagan, Labor Press Ass'n, 1105 K St. N.W., "

Shirley

9-17-53

From the Office of  
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey  
429 Nicollet Hotel  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

FOR RELEASE:  
Friday P.M.  
September 18, 1953

United States Senator Hubert H. Humphrey vigorously assailed proposals for a national sales tax today, and pledged a "fight to the finish" against any such effort in the forthcoming Congress.

"If the Administration tries to make good its pledge of reducing income and corporation taxes by shifting more of the burden of government onto the backs of small taxpayers, they'll get the battle of their lives," Senator Humphrey declared in an address before the Minnesota State CIO Convention at St. Paul.

"A sales tax is completely contrary to the ability-to-pay principle, which in my judgement should be the major criterion of a tax," he declared. "It would fall heaviest on folks in the lowest income brackets in a completely unfair manner, and discriminate against growing families."

He warned the American people to be "on guard" against attempts of groups most able to pay to shift a greater share of the tax load onto those least able to pay when tax laws are revised during the coming session of the Congress.

The serious consideration being given by Administration leaders to a national sales tax, Senator Humphrey declared, "is just another of many examples of how this 'big business'-minded Administration is turning its back on the American consumer."

The consumer, he said, has become "the real forgotten man" in this era of "government by pressure groups".

"Continually climbing costs of living emphasize the necessity for greater consideration by the Congress to the effects of public policies on the ultimate consumer," Senator Humphrey declared.

"We need a Congressional body dedicated to protect the unorganized, voiceless consumer. We need a 'watchdog' for consumer interests. We need an Administration and a Congress which recognizes that the consumer interest is the paramount interest among all economic groups".

He charged the Administration with "turning government away from serving the people, and toward serving the privileged few".

They are doing it, he declared, by "backdoor Administrative policy decisions", rather than "out in the open through legislative processes, where the people have a chance to make themselves heard".



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