

From the Office of
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Circumstances surrounding the resignation of Martin Durkin as Secretary of Labor "show who is really calling the tune for the Administration on labor policy," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) declared today in an address before the annual state convention of the Minnesota Federation of Labor (AFL) in St. Paul, Minnesota.

"It is big business elements that provide the main under-pinnings of Administration labor policy, as well as in every other issue," Senator Humphrey said.

"The Administration had hoped to stall the Taft-Hartley issue by holding out 'pie in the sky' amendments. At the same time, it hoped it would never have to deliver by actually asking for such legislation. When Durkin forced the Administration to 'put up or shut up', it made clear where its basic loyalties were," Senator Humphrey declared.

"Durkin's resignation is a reaffirmation of principle by organized labor," he added.

"In effect, Durkin had taken the position with the same pledge made by other labor leaders: 'Labor will cooperate with the Eisenhower Administration in working out fair labor policy. But as soon as it becomes clear that the Administration is trying to 'use' high office as a way of buying off opposition, Labor will step out.'

"That's precisely what Durkin did. As an honorable man, he stepped out when he found he was being 'used'," Senator Humphrey said.

Whatever happens in Congress to the Taft-Hartley law, Senator Humphrey warned, the Administration has "other anti-labor strategy in its bag of tricks".

As an example, he cited what he termed "packing" of the National Labor Relations Board with "NAM-minded board members".

"Already two new board members have been appointed, with a third appointment in the wings. They are estimable gentlemen, but there are signs that they intend to pursue union-damaging potentialities of Taft-Hartley to the hilt," Senator Humphrey said. "It now seems clear that if the Republicans won't go through the legislative motions of toughening Taft-Hartley against unions, then they will achieve the same goal by packing the board with anti-union members, and interpreting out of existence whatever protections for unions Taft-Hartley carried over from the Wagner Act."

He called attention to some of Chairman Farmer's recent dissenting opinions as "omens of things to come".

"Where are the 'liberal' Republicans in all of this? Are they going to take this board-packing lying down? Are they going to permit union-busting by Administrative rule?" Senator Humphrey asked.



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