

HUMPHREY

For Immediate Release
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MIAMI, FLORIDA, FEB. 24, 1972 -- Senator Hubert H. Humphrey today charged publicly that millions of Democrats are being denied a role in the nominating process because of violations of their Saturday Sabbath observances.

In a letter to Party Chairman Lawrence O'Brien, Humphrey said that Saturday delegate selection meetings "discriminate against millions of Americans, of both the Jewish and the Seventh Day Adventist faith."

"This represents an unfortunate insensitivity to the religious convictions of many Democrats," Humphrey told Chairman O'Brien. "Our Party cannot violate religious practices. Nor can it allow millions of Democrats to be disenfranchised."

In Miami on February 20, Humphrey called for "immediate action to protect sabbath observers.

"Sabbath observance is a basic right. It is not a privilege or a luxury," Humphrey told his Florida audience.

The text of Senator Humphrey's letter to Chairman O'Brien follows:

Humphrey for President

HUMPHREY

February 18, 1972

1225 19TH ST. N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
PHONE: 202-872-1600



The Honorable Lawrence O'Brien
Chairman
Democratic National Committee
2600 Virginia Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Larry:

I understand that in many cases delegate selection to this year's Democratic National Convention has been held on Saturday.

It seems to me that this discriminates against millions of Americans, of both the Jewish and the Seventh Day Adventist faith, who celebrate their day of Sabbath on Saturday.

This represents an unfortunate insensitivity to the religious convictions of many Democrats. I feel very strongly that we cannot let this practice continue.

Our Party cannot violate religious practices. Nor can it allow millions of Democrats to be disenfranchised.

It is clear to me that our Party reforms must respect and protect Sabbath observances whenever they take place.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Hubert H. Humphrey

Humphrey for President

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
MINNESOTA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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kgg/PCL:1/a

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