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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 15, 1977

NORVILL JONES, CHIEF OF STAFF
ASHLEY E. KENDRICK, CHIEF CLERK

Mr. J.W. Abel, President
Industrial Union Department
AFL-CIO
815 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Abe:

I am so sorry that I cannot be with you and your friends tonight. I had really looked forward to joining in this tribute which you so fully deserve. Abe, you have made a tremendous contribution to America. You have been a great and effective leader of our nation's steelworkers, the champion of all those who struggle to insure the economic, social and political rights of all our people, and an advisor, supporter and dear friend who has never let me down.

For many of us you have demonstrated what labor leadership at its best is all about. You have built a strong, effective, democratic union that truly serves its membership and serves it well. You have shown the way to other unions with innovations of great importance to the well being of our workers. And, moreover, you have used the great influence of your union to make America a little better, our society more just, for all our people.

In the struggle for civil rights, for quality education, for decent housing, for full employment -- in every progressive struggle for thirty years, you and the United Steelworkers of America have played a decisive role. I know that the USW will continue its proud and progressive tradition under the capable leadership of your successor and my friend Lloyd McBride.

So, thank you Abe and best wishes for good health and happiness in the future from myself, my party and the millions of your countrymen whose lives are better for your constant caring.

Sincerely,

Hubert H. Humphrey



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