

CHURCHMEN REITERATE 'RIGHT TO WORK LAWS' OPPOSITION 7/26/65 - M.
WASHINGTON (NC)--Members of three religious groups sent telegrams to all members of the House of Representatives, reiterating their opposition to the "right to work laws" section of the National Labor Relations Act.

The telegrams were sent by the Rev. Cameron Hall, director of the commission on church and economic life of the National Council of Churches of Christ; Msgr. George G. Higgins, ^{director,} Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference; and Rabbi Richard of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

A proposal to repeal section 14B of the law is now being considered by a House Labor subcommittee headed by Rep. Frank Thompson of the New Jersey.

The three churchmen earlier sent a message to Rep. Thompson in which they stated: "We look upon bona fide collective bargaining between management and organized labor as a constructive method of handling industrial relations. Nevertheless our devotion to the principle of religious liberty compels us to defend the rights of those who find it impossible, as a matter of religious belief, to join or support outside organizations, including labor unions."

The message also said it should be possible for Congress in considering section 14B "to find a formula which will simultaneously guarantee the legitimate rights of organized labor and the rights of those workers...whose religious beliefs make it impossible for them to join or support a labor organization."

The message was circulated generally among members of the House by a representative of a religious group who advocated opening the legislation to unlimited debate and amendment. The churchmen then sent a second message, addressed to all members of the House, in which they stated:

"It has come to our attention that this telegram (the first message) is being interpreted to mean that we are advocating an amendment to the rule proposed in HR 437 which would open HR 77 to unlimited debate and amendment. This was not the intention of our telegram. As a matter of fact, we deliberately refrained from trying to tell Congress, in specific terms, how to handle the religious liberty issue referred to above. Our only purpose was to record our support of principle of religious liberty while reiterating our opposition to section 14B."

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