

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO DEFEAT THE MUNDT BILL
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ACTION BULLETIN #4

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Washington Delegations Scheduled April 18-20

The National Committee to Defeat the Mundt Bill has called for emergency delegations to Washington April 18-20.

The call is for representatives of organizations opposed to the Mundt-Nixon bill. It is not a general mobilization. State delegations of 5 or 6 are contemplated from most States, but these persons should be carefully selected. They should represent those organizations most likely to be influential with your Congressmen.

A briefing session is planned Monday evening, April 17, (time and place to be announced later) for delegations which have arrived by that time. Other delegations will be briefed the day they arrive. After briefing, delegates will spend their entire time presenting the views of the organizations they represent to the Senators and Representatives from their State, checking back with the national office to make a final report.

The choice of dates is not an arbitrary one. The F.E.P.C. bill is listed on the Senate calendar for consideration April 17. There is danger of a "deal" whereby if a move were made to bring up the F.E.P.C. bill, its opponents would try to substitute the Mundt bill. If, on the other hand, political consideration caused postponement of the F.E.P.C. debate, there would be a legislative gap into which the Mundt bill might be thrown. In the House, meanwhile, members will be returning April 17 from their Easter recess.

House Hearings: First Major Victory Against Mundt-Nixon Bill

In Action Bulletin #2, dated March 16, 1950, this committee advised you that the hearings scheduled March 21 by the House Committee on Un-American Activities "can be turned into a boomerang against the Mundt-Nixon bill, if the broadest possible opposition is presented." It can now be reported that the Un-American Committee seriously miscalculated the temper of the American people, suffered a major defeat.

Instead of demonstrating a great public demand for passage of the bill, as the committee had hoped, the hearings showed an overwhelming balance of opinion against it, despite the reluctance of many Mundt-Nixon opponents to appear before the most detested of Congressional committees.

Lined up for the bill were the same organizations who have supported it since its introduction: The Chamber of Commerce, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Amvets.

Opposing the bill before the committee were organizations representing substantially the entire American labor movement, the leading Negro and Jewish organizations of the country, both of the country's civil liberties organizations, the Quakers and other church groups, women's organizations, a leading teachers' group, a national lawyers' association and several individual Constitutional lawyers, two veterans' organizations and the leading anti-Communist liberal group.

Those organizations which have already testified against the bill include:

American Federation of Labor
Americans for Democratic Action
American Civil Liberties Union
Civil Rights Congress
American Veterans Committee
Friends Committee on National Legislation

Organizations scheduled to testify April 4 against the bill are:

C. I. O.
Progressive Party

Those which have filed written statements against the bill include:

National Lawyers Guild
American Jewish Congress
American Jewish Committee
Jewish War Veterans
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith
Jewish Labor Committee
National Council of Jewish Women
National Community Relations Advisory Council
National Association of Jewish Center Workers
American Association of University Professors
American Council on Human Rights
Council for Social Action, Congregational Christian Churches
National Women's Trade Union League
Amalgamated Clothing Workers, CIO
Textile Workers Union, CIO

Organizations which have asked for time to testify against the bill, but have been refused time and directed to submit a written statement instead, include (in addition to several of those previously listed):

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Association of Colored Women
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Communist Party
Individuals who have submitted statements in opposition to the bill

include:

Zechariah Chafee, Jr., professor of law, Harvard University
William G. Rice, professor of law, University of Wisconsin

Individuals whose request for time has been denied include:

Joseph Rainey, Philadelphia magistrate.

Those who intend to submit statements against the Mundt bill or to ask for time to testify include:

National Farmers Union
Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church & State
I. L. W. U. (Longshoremen's Union)
Citizens Committee Against the Ober Law (Maryland)

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The views of 27 organizations and 3 individuals opposed to the Mundt-Nixon bill have, so far, been presented to the committee for inclusion in its official records, with prospects of at least 4 additional organizations. Supporting the bill have been 4 organizations and no individuals. To overcome this overwhelming preponderance, the Un-American Committee itself has been soliciting written statements supporting the bill. Among those approached was General Eisenhower, whose position has not yet been made public.

The committee announces it will accept written statements for inclusion in the record of the hearings for about a week after April 4. Such statements, the committee says, may be either from organizations or individuals "qualified to discuss the bill."

The enclosed statement, signed by Jerry J. O'Connell, is designed for signature by approximately 1,000 national figures, to be released to the press and sent to members of Congress at a later date. You are requested to get it signed by leaders of your community, keep the original copy and send us the names and identification of any persons who sign it. This statement is for general use; subsequent statements directed toward labor and Negro leaders will be sent you. This is a major national project.