

of our nation. In these modern days we don't like to use the strike weapon unless we are forced to do so. That doesn't mean we have forgotten how to use it. If employers refuse to bargain in good faith and think the time has come to get tough with labor, they will learn this truth to their sorrow.

We also have a basic political power—the power of numbers. The 17 million organized workers of America, together with their families and friends, constitute a significant number of votes in any election.

It is only since 1947 that labor has entered the political area in an organized way. We learned then, from a very simple demonstration by Congress in enacting the Taft-Hartley Act, that the gains and achievements we had won over the years could be taken away from us overnight by legislation. So the decision by labor to go seriously into the political action field was really made not by the leaders of labor but by the architects of anti-labor legislation.

We are determined to pursue our activity in this field with all earnestness. I will concede quite frankly that an effective political organization cannot be built in a day or a year. But we decided in 1947

that we had to get into this political business and stay in it until we succeeded in organizing a permanent, progressive and successful program and we are making steady progress toward that goal. In view of the increasing opposition from big business, I would predict even more rapid progress by labor's political arm in the years to come.

Using our economic strength, our political strength and any other weapon that we have the right to use, we are going to continue labor's efforts to make America a better place for all its citizens—not merely union members. Yes, even to provide a better and more stable climate for constant prosperity for employers and management.

Labor wants America to become more than an idealistic symbol for all the people of the world who believe in human freedom. We want to prove to them and to ourselves that we can make democracy work.

It is our intention to continue the fight against racial and religious discrimination until this ugly blot on our good name is eliminated.

We are going to carry on our drive to wipe out poverty and human misery not only in America but everywhere in our world.