

**OPINION
56-71**

January 13, 1956

LABOR - Certain Collective Bargaining

This is in reply to your letter of January 11, 1956, wherein you request an opinion from this office as to whether or not North Dakota laws prohibit collective bargaining between unions and political subdivisions, rural electrification cooperatives, housing authorities or public utility districts.

We find nothing in the laws of this state which would prohibit or restrict collective bargaining between the aforementioned parties. Rather, it appears that such procedure is encouraged in all employer-employee relationships by the declaration of public policy which is found in section 34-1001 of the 1953 Supplement to the North Dakota Revised Code of 1943. This statute reads as follows:

“DECLARATION OF PUBLIC POLICY. The public policy of the state is declared to be that the best interests of the people of the state are served by the prevention of prompt settlement of labor disputes; that labor disputes result in economic waste detrimental to the public and the state; that the interests and rights of consumers and the people of the state should always be considered, respected, and protected; that relationships between employees and employers are therefore matters of vital public concern; that sound and stable labor relationships, the advancement of the general welfare, health and safety of the state, and the interests of employees and employers can best be secured through the processes of conference and collective bargaining between employers and representatives of their employees; and that the settlement of issues between employers and employees through collective bargaining may be advanced by making available adequate facilities for mediation, conciliation, and arbitration to aid and encourage employers and representatives of their employees to reach and maintain agreements concerning rates of pay, hours, working conditions, and other subjects of labor disputes and to make all reasonable efforts to settle their differences by mutual agreement reached through conference and collective bargaining or by such methods as may be provided for in any applicable agreement for the settlement of dispute.”