

process, in accordance with the best American tradition. In keeping with this tradition, the rights of all concerned are duly protected. It bears no resemblance to a punitive measure. It is aimed solely at and limited to securing the right to vote, wrongfully denied.

I regret that it was necessary for the Attorney General to frame, and for me to introduce H.R. 10035. Unfortunately, circumstances gave neither of us an alternative. We could not, in good conscience, continue to countenance the serious deprivation of qualified citizens of fundamental rights, which have been and are now being denied.

If the constitutional guarantee of equality under the law for all of our citizens is to be realized, then it is necessary that the right to vote be secured to all qualified Americans. H.R. 10035 would, I believe, accomplish that goal.

When I introduced this measure in the House of Representatives less than 2 weeks ago, I was concerned that in the press of other important legislative matters before the Congress, the Federal referee proposal would be bypassed without hearing. It was for this reason that I requested the chairman to schedule immediate hearings on this most important and controversial measure. I was gratified by the chairman's response to my plea. Not only did he grant my plea; he did more. He appears to have embraced the administration measure. I welcome his support now, before the Rules Committee, and on the floor of the House.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WILLIS. Mr. Chairman, I express my appreciation for the action of the committee in accordance with the examining of Judge Walsh in open session and having a reasonable opportunity to present all sides of this issue.

The CHAIRMAN. The hearing will now adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and we will then hear from witnesses whose names have been submitted before.

(Whereupon, at 1:45 p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 1960, the committee adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.)