

I want to express my opposition to this proposal made in the closing days of the session. I shall not be unduly long but I will insist upon my right to be heard.

I repeat what I said earlier this week and what I told the majority leader yesterday. I will try not to take too long in expressing my opposition. I will try to be brief in giving my reasons, but I do want the Senate to have a clear understanding of what is in this bill.

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. I yield.

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. Mr. President, let me just make this point clear: The Treasury opposed approximately five amendments which the Senate added to this bill. The other 18 amendments were either things the Treasury thought provided more equity for taxpayers, or were matters to which the Treasury had no objection whatever, feeling that they were problems which it would be well for Congress to resolve.

The conference modified the five amendments Treasury had opposed so that the Treasury objections were met in every way that the conference thought it could compromise. We were so successful that the Treasury now strongly supports this bill. It feels it is a very good bill, providing more equitable tax treatment for the many taxpayers effected. There is only one thing now in the bill to which Treasury strongly objects as a tax proposition, H.R. 10, the amendment which provides a large tax deduction for self-employed people. This will help doctors, lawyers, accountants, and other self-employed people.

Mr. President, I agree with the Treasury position. But it has passed the House by a vote of 291 to 0. I did all I could to defeat the measure as did the majority leader. The Treasury itself made a determined effort led by the Secretary, the Under Secretary, and the Assistant Secretary. Notwithstanding all pleading with Senators we failed, it passed the Senate by a margin of eight votes. In view of this history, I say it is the will of the Senate; and it is the will of the House.

That is the only thing in the bill that Treasury thinks is not good tax legislation. Mr. President, the Treasury Department, as I am, is prepared to admit that sometimes we in the minority have to recognize that the majority has a right to legislate.

The Senator from Florida [Mr. SMATHERS] thinks it is a wonderful amendment. He has been working for it for many years. The Senator from Louisiana does not agree. But when the House votes 291 to 0, together with a majority of the Senate, we have no right to tell them they cannot legislate.

Mr. SMATHERS. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. I yield.

Mr. SMATHERS. Will the Senator not agree that there has never been a piece of legislation more cussed, discussed, debated, written about and held up to the light of public scrutiny, than that provision known as H.R. 10, which would establish the right of self-employed people to set up pension plans for themselves, and given the same right as millions of men and women employed in the business community. Whether you agree with it or not, it has been discussed, and everyone knows all about it—and has known for many, many years.

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. That item has been discussed pro and con, it has been held up to more opprobrium on one side and more approval on the other, than any other feature of the measure. But when the other body votes the way it has, it is beyond our ability to change.

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Mr. MANSFIELD. The only trouble with H.R. 10 is that it gives the poor working stiff, who really needs it, no help.

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. I am against H.R. 10.

Mr. MANSFIELD. So am I.

Mr. LAUSCHE. Did the Senator vote against it?

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. Yes, I voted against H.R. 10. I spoke against it.

Mr. LAUSCHE. Will the Senator yield to me for a moment?

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. The majority leader has the floor.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I yield first to the Senator from Florida. Then I shall be happy to yield to the Senator from Ohio.

Mr. SMATHERS. Mr. President, I should like to say that H.R. 10 is not designed to take care of the poor as such. We have hundreds of programs from welfare to poverty programs which are calculated to take care of the poor. I have supported, sponsored, and voted for those programs—we have not had one to provide the same opportunities for retirement for the self-employed.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Not like H.R. 10.

Mr. SMATHERS. I disagree with the majority leader. There is no purpose served in debating the matter again at length, but if you are the president of the largest corporation, or any corporation that wants to provide a pension for its employees, you can set aside tax-free, for yourself and members of your family, and your employees as much as \$50,000 a year for one individual, and it is tax free. This exemption for the self-employed is limited to \$2,500 a year, and is designed for the self-employed people. And it is not as generous as any of the present pension programs already approved by the Treasury. More than that, it requires that the self-employed establish a pension program for their