

TO PRESCRIBE PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN ACTS OF VIOLENCE OR INTIMIDATION

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RULES,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met at 10:40 a.m., in room H-313, the Capitol, the Honorable William M. Colmer, chairman, presiding.

Present: Messrs. Colmer, Madden, Delaney, Bolling, O'Neill, Matsunaga, Smith, Anderson of Illinois, Martin, and Quillen.

Staff present: Laurie C. Battle, counsel; Mary Spencer Forrest, assistant counsel; and Robert D. Hynes, Jr., minority counsel.

Mr. COLMER. The committee will come to order.

Mr. Celler, the committee will hear from you on the 1968 version of the civil rights bill.

STATEMENT OF HON. EMANUEL CELLER, CHAIRMAN, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CELLER. I appear here this morning, together with a number of distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, to urge the Committee on Rules to report favorably House Resolution 1100 so that the House may work its will and adopt H.R. 2516, together with the Senate amendment thereto.

Mr. COLMER. Pardon me. Would you mind rereading that last sentence?

Mr. CELLER. I ask a favorable report on House Resolution 1100 so that the House may work its will and adopt H.R. 2516. I asked for such concurrence by unanimous consent; that was refused and that is why a resolution was offered.

Mr. COLMER. The reason I interrupted is I wondered if the House had the opportunity to work its will.

Mr. CELLER. Well, that could be interpreted a number of ways. It is like the fellow who held up a bottle and says it is half full and the other one says it is half empty.

The House approved the bill, H.R. 2516, on August 16 of last year. The bill as adopted and sent to the Senate specified certain kinds of rights to be protected by Federal law and provided criminal penalties for the forcible interference with the exercise of those rights. The committee will recall that the bill was overwhelmingly approved by a vote of 326 yeas to 93 nays.

In the Senate H.R. 2516 was considered in public hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee and was reported favorably to the Senate floor on November 7, 1967. It was the subject of 7 weeks of