

Mr. COLMER. I shall read your statement ; that is your complete statement?

Mr. CELLER. Yes, sir.

Mr. COLMER. Mr. Celler, permit me first to compliment the gentleman, the dean of the House, one of the most able men in the House, upon your ability to present your side of the argument in a most convincing way.

As one who has directly differed with my friend, on other matters, I envy the gentleman's ability in the use of the language and the general ability to convey your side of the argument.

I am not going to undertake to fence with the gentleman upon the legal provisions of this bill. I think I might like to comment upon some of the implications and upon where it is leading us, further down the road to strong centralized government where the state is the master and the people are the servants. This, in my humble judgment, not only in this matter, but in other legislative proposals here, can only finally end up in one form of socialistic government, not too far and unlike that of the Communist States that we are so busy fighting upon the battlefields of the farflung countries.

First, I should like to interrogate the distinguished gentleman upon what he has said here for the adoption of this resolution that has been dutifully introduced here by my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. Madden. It simply provides that this House, notwithstanding the fact that many provisions of this bill have not been considered by us, shall take up the Senate version of the bill and adopt it. And, we will thereby make it law, because that is exactly what will happen if the resolution that you advocate were passed by the House after having, of course, been reported by this committee.

If I recall correctly, the original bill that the Senate acted upon, or rather two bills that this House passed, the antiriot bill and interference with civil rights workers, carries with it these additional provisions—as I say, that have not been considered.

Now, you propose, and what my friend from Indiana proposes here, that we take this resolution down to the floor of the House with 1 hour of debate, adopt it, then it goes to the White House for signature and becomes law.

Mr. MADDEN. Will you yield?

Mr. COLMER. If the gentleman will permit me, please.

Mr. MADDEN. 4 hours.

Mr. COLMER. Now, why all of the haste?

Mr. CELLER. May I just say the procedure that we are asking you to follow was followed on three specific occasions, all concerning civil rights. In the 1957 Civil Rights Act, a bill was adopted by the House, it was amended by the Senate, and the Senate amendments were concurred in. The 1960 Civil Rights Act followed similar procedures. It was adopted, the Senate made amendments, the House concurred.

The Civil Rights Act in 1964 was similar. So we have three distinct precedents for the action we are asking today.

Mr. COLMER. Very well, if I may continue.

Mr. CELLER. I thought you were asking a question.

Mr. COLMER. And I thought the gentleman had given me his answer to that.