

Mr. Celler, again, I come back to the question of, Why the haste?

Here is a bill that started out with an antiriot bill in this House, and the gentleman is familiar with what happened on that, that we had some difficulty, those of us who favor the antiriot bill had some difficulty, even getting it out of your committee. But, we did get it out.

And then your committee reported another bill, which in the judgment of this humble Member, was a perfect antidote for the antiriot bill, but that is a question that I am willing to pass in the interest of time.

So, we passed two bills. These bills went over to the Senate—when, August of last year, as I recall, and I am prompted to recall—those bills have been over there with that body having the opportunity to work its will for about 9 months.

It was debated on the floor of the House, and under the more liberal rules of the Senate, for some 40 days. Yet, notwithstanding your statement, Mr. Chairman, that you want to see the House work its will on this bill, you would have us dispose of it in an hour by the simple adoption of a rule. I do not think that would be fair to the membership of this House, with all of the amendments that were adopted over there, which have never been considered over here, and which would not be given an opportunity to be debated.

I may just happen to be one of those who is jealous of the prerogatives of this body of the Congress. I recall when the Founding Fathers set this Government up and provided for this Congress, they provided that the House, by implication, was to be the important body. It was to review the matters, appropriations; control of the purse strings was to be left in the House—or would be initiated in the House, to more accurately state it. And yet, by the process of evolution this body has permitted the other body to take over and become pretty largely the legislative body. We, the direct representatives of the people, who, the Founding Fathers provided, should have to come fresh from the people every 2 years so that the people would have an opportunity to clear the rascal out—if I may use that term—do not proceed along that line anymore.

And, as a Member of the House, I resent this evolution that is going on. We hear a lot about second-class citizens. Are we second-class legislators that we must take everything the other body sees fit to pass, without even an opportunity to debate it.

So, I cannot see why all of the haste. Why not give this House, as the gentleman stated in the opening statement, an opportunity to work its will on these amendments that were put in by the Senate—the other body?

Now, I know that the gentleman, who is the dean of this House, shares some of the views that I have just expressed. Although the gentleman, under the circumstances, may differ with me, I do not think it is fair to the House. Whether it was a civil rights bill or a bill to regulate the importation of bear meat, I would be opposed to it.

I hear some comments in that connection, Mr. Chairman, that the haste is due to the fact that some man, who has set himself up as a modern messiah, has arranged to have a big convention here in Washington, bring in all of the “whoopie,” and that it would be a good time to consider this legislation again.