

The CHAIRMAN. We have a number of witnesses scheduled this morning—Congressman Hays, Congressman Waggonner, Congressman Haley, Congressman McCulloch, Congressman Watson, and Congressman Wiggins.

Mr. Watson, you seem to be pretty far down the list, but you seem to be the only one here this morning, so we will be glad to hear from you.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ALBERT W. WATSON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE SECOND
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

Mr. WATSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I did have a prepared statement. I had it prepared prior to the tragic events of Thursday evening. However, I only appear now seeking your consideration of three things.

First, if I may respectfully suggest to this committee that we try to have an open rule on this measure because of the extensiveness of it. Because of the many provisions involved we would be hopeful that this committee in its wisdom might give the House an open rule so that the matter might be thoroughly debated, and the House might have the opportunity to work its will.

Second, if the committee does not see fit to give the House an open rule, we would suggest respectfully again that the committee give us such time as is possible under the rule so that the House might be able to debate the issue as far as it can within the limitations of the rule.

I appreciate the fact that this matter has taken on a new degree of urgency in the light of recent developments, but I hope in the wisdom of this committee that we will not see fit to allow legislation to pass under a sense of recrimination or retribution or reward, but that we will have adequate time to debate the issue.

And, third, I thought it most appropriate to suggest, in view of the emotionally strained situation, that this committee in its wisdom might see fit to postpone action on this matter. I am sure that in past years every piece of legislation has been handled without the emotional impact that we would have on this.

Certainly we have tried to do so, we have tried to take matters dispassionately, intelligently, and certainly I hope that that is what will result in the handling of this bill. So, thirdly, I would respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, in light of the impact that we have upon the Nation now, that we postpone this matter until later, when all of us, both the proponents and the opponents, will be able to discuss it in an intelligent, calm, dispassionate, and deliberate manner.

So I shall not go into the merits and demerits of the bill as I proposed to earlier, I only come here to respectfully suggest that the committee might consider one or all of these suggestions.

I will be happy to answer any questions that you, Mr. Chairman, or any member of the committee might have.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, Mr. Watson, you haven't given us much to question you about. But I would observe that I think the gentleman's suggestion that this is a bad time to legislate in this atmosphere that