

Certainly, Mr. Martin responded to the gentleman from Indiana about our responsibility as Members of the House and not to just blindly follow whatever the other body does on this particular matter. To be sure, they debated it at length, but the House has not had that opportunity.

So the point that I am trying to make is, in the light of recent developments, I believe the American people of all persuasions would want us to postpone a decision until we could have a time of calm. What would be the consequences in the House if it were voted up or down?

I hate to see comments or hear comments as we have heard, and I am sure you have, that this is the hour to take this step in order to reward someone, or to take this step in order to show our repulsion at this dastardly act down in Tennessee. But we as intelligent Representatives of the people, we are not to be persuaded by those things.

And as much as we should try now in this committee, as much as we should try to remove these things from our minds and forget about them, I don't believe it is humanly possible for anyone to do so. And that is why I am disturbed about the matter, and say to my good friend from Indiana, I don't want to block the will of the House and the will of the House will be expressed whether it comes on Wednesday, Thursday of this week, or whether it comes 2 weeks from now.

I am sure the will of the House will be expressed. And the matter of timing is not going to deny the will of the House at all. And I am sure the people of Indiana, when they elected you, intended for you to have your influence and to cast your vote and work your intelligence and will into legislation and not just say it has been adequately debated, because the Senate, the other body, deliberated some several weeks on this particular matter.

And that is why I am urging and pleading with you at this time that we might wait until further things have transpired which would allow the situation to calm down.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Bolling, any questions?

Mr. BOLLING. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Martin?

Mr. MARTIN. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. O'Neill?

Mr. O'NEILL. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Latta?

Mr. LATTI. Just one question, Mr. Chairman. After President Kennedy's assassination the House passed a piece of legislation that was supposed to be passed as a memorial to President Kennedy. We acted then in a time of stress, strain, and emotion.

We are now in the same position as you pointed out. And many people, as you have indicated, are saying that we should pass the legislation not on the merits—forget the merits—but as a memorial to the great individual who died by an assassin's bullet.

I have been in deep thought about this matter over the weekend as to what the possible consequence might be for the future. Must some great leader of this country die to pass legislation on the basis of emotion rather than on the basis of merit?

If so, every great leader of this country, whether he is black, white, or whatever color he might be, is in jeopardy, because there are a good many people that might get to thinking, "Well, it's the only way to pass