

legislation, to kill somebody and stir up emotion in this country to the extent that the Congress will act, not on the basis of merit, but on the basis of emotion."

And, frankly, this worries me if we are going to take this course of action. And I feel if a piece of legislation was meritorious before this man died, it is meritorious afterward. And if it is not meritorious before he died, it is not meritorious afterward.

And the same thing applied to President Kennedy. And I certainly fear for the future of the legislative process if we take this road blindly on the basis of emotion, on the basis of the fact that a great man died.

I can see many other great men in this country dying just to see legislation passed in the future. And I fear this type of process.

Mr. BOLLING. Mr. Chairman, could I make a brief comment?

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Bolling.

Mr. BOLLING. I think it is necessary for somebody to say, at least an opinion, that in my opinion on Thursday last, before the event the gentleman refers to, this bill was going to come out of this committee and was going to be passed by the House of Representatives.

And I think the gentleman is right, we shouldn't obscure it. In my judgment this legislation was going to pass anyway. Congress has to act in times when there is great emotion involved and we do constantly, in matters like Vietnam and all foreign policy, and the notion that an event controls what Congress does is beyond my comprehension on the basis of the history of the Congress.

Mr. JOHN B. ANDERSON. Would the gentleman from Ohio yield for a further comment?

Mr. LATTA. Yes.

Mr. JOHN B. ANDERSON. I think it is terribly important to emphasize that point as far as the American people are concerned. The decision by this committee to vote tomorrow was made before the tragic assassination. The decision, I am sure, on the part of the Democratic leadership, their desire to schedule this for the 10th, or the day after, was made long before Dr. King was assassinated.

So we are not altering the legislative calendar, we are not doing anything in acting on this bill at this time that we would not have done in the normal course of events had Dr. King not died. And I think the American people should know that, because we don't want the false impression to go out that we in Washington are simply turning cartwheels or doing anything else that we wouldn't have done before the death of Dr. King.

Mr. LATTA. Well, I couldn't agree with the gentleman more. But in emphasizing the point that this committee had agreed to act, many weeks ago, on tomorrow—we are not being rushed or steamrolled into acting today; we did not act last Friday.

I certainly didn't intend to infer that. But there is some question as to whether or not the votes are down on the floor to pass the Madden resolution or to pass the Smith resolution to send this to conference. And that is what I had reference to, not the question of whether or not this committee is going to act, because this committee is going to act.

The CHAIRMAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LATTA. I will be pleased to yield.

The CHAIRMAN. Of course there has really never been any question since these hearings began but what a resolution would be reported out