

or better yet, if you still want the democratic process to function, conduct a national referendum.

This final word, Mr. Chairman, on this bill as a whole. We are being accused by the President of "piddling around" when we ask that this bill be given the same procedural treatment that is given every other bill.

And I submit to you that when the House was asked to send to conference the tax bill, which supposedly the administration wants, another process was invoked. It was sent to committee. It was not taken to the House and the Senate amendments concurred in and the bill passed. So I raise the question, which does the President want the most? It ill behooves anyone who has served in the Congress to make such a remark. The end does not justify the means. Not in this case or in any other.

No proposal is so desperately needed that the time cannot be spared to follow the democratic process. In that direction lies autocracy and dictatorship.

The Congress does not enact every piece of legislation I favor and it does not turn down every piece that I oppose, but in the long run there is no process of legislation that I prefer. If we can dismiss the committee system and roll roughshod over the House, then perhaps the time has come to disband the entire congressional system, if the administration has no trust and faith in the traditional method of legislating. I don't share that view. And I know, gentlemen, much has been said today about the wake of the senseless killing of Martin Luther King last Thursday night, that this legislation should be passed as a memorial to him. I don't know how many of you have seen the wire this morning; I don't know how many of you are familiar with the statement made by the distinguished majority leader of the other body, but the distinguished majority leader had this to say on the floor of the Senate this morning:

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield flashed a "go slow" sign today against President Johnson's attempt to rush a new bill through Congress in the wake of the riots that followed Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination at Memphis.

Thank you, gentlemen.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, sir. If you will bear with me a moment, I would like to go back to the history of this legislation and ask the gentleman whether or not he concurs in the recital of these facts.

I think the gentleman will recall, as well as this committee and the House, that last year there was an antiriot bill, a number of antiriot bills, introduced and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The chairman of that committee, the dean of this House, and a very able man, did not see fit to have any hearings on these antiriot bills. They nestled over there in the Judiciary Committee for months. Whereupon—and if you will pardon the personal reference—I took occasion as chairman of this committee, feeling that I had the backing of the committee and of the country, to serve notice upon the chairman of the Judiciary Committee that if that bill were not activated and there was no action forthcoming, I proposed to ask this Committee on Rules to exercise a power that it has but rarely used, to take that bill from that committee, report it to the floor, and then have it acted upon, to give the House an opportunity to express its will, the democratic process.