

Now, this committee has had before it for some time these bills we are considering today. We have had on our agenda a desire to consider these bills. Even though the bills were introduced some time ago, you can see the cooperation that we have had from the departments downtown when we receive reports on these bills under date of March 28 and 29—27 and 29, and a report on the letter that was sent on March 16, answered on the 28th.

The chairman of the full committee, who is now acting chairman of the subcommittee, just does not appreciate the fact that we get into so much criticism because things are not done on time, and yet we just have to drag reports out of the Department.

Also it is not in the interests of good government that the procedures between the two bodies of Congress are such as they are at the present time. The House of Representatives must follow strict rules. They have a rule that nothing that is not germane to a bill can be considered. The other body has no rule of germaneness. All they have to do is enter into an agreement, and they can tack anything on to any particular piece of legislation and send it back here.

Now, what has happened as far as the so-called Indian civil rights bill—and nobody knows at the present time whether it is civil or whether it is rights or not, but they know it is headed toward the Indians—is that there has been no chance at all for the House of Representatives or its legally constituted committee to consider this legislation, and there is a drive at the present time by some people who simply have caught the imagination and the glamor of the use of the term “civil rights” to bypass entirely the consideration by the committee having jurisdiction.

Now, if the rules of the House mean anything, they mean that when a bill is introduced and forwarded to a committee, that that committee shall consider the legislation, and any procedure which intends to upset the orderly legislative process in the House of Representatives should be frowned on.

I do not know whether I am for this bill or whether I am against this legislation in its present form, or whether it can be put into a position or a condition that I can support. I doubt very much if the Indians of the United States of America have any greater friends than they have right on this committee. The gentleman who is the subcommittee chairman, who is necessarily absent because of a death in his family, is known to be one of the greatest friends that the Indians have ever had. And yet there are those in Congress who would pass this piece of legislation through the House of Representatives without any consideration at all being given to it—not even a chance to make any satisfactory record on the floor of the House.

I say to my Indian friends, and also to the Representatives of the present administration—there was not enough consideration in the other body, as far as this legislation is concerned, to write a satisfactory record as to what is involved. None of the points which are raised by him of our Indian friends were considered.

So as far as I am concerned, we are going to consider this piece of legislation just exactly as we have considered any other piece of legislation. I hope that even though we do not have too many members present this morning, that we can proceed as rapidly and as constructively as is humanly possible to do so.