

buster, or debate, or whatever is to be called in the Senate, could go on for weeks, probably for months.

Senator THURMOND. Educational debate.

Mr. SEVAREID. We have no certainty that it will come out in its present form, or even indeed that it will come out. It will certainly change the lives, if it does, of a great many Americans in rather intimate ways. Should it not be passed, we may have disorder on our streets, even as bad or worse as we have had before. Careers and elections could be affected. Well, I'm sorry we don't have unlimited debate on television, so I will have to say goodnight now. This is Eric Severeid. Good night to you all.

(Announcement.)

ANNOUNCER. "CBS Reports" is a production of CBS news and tonight originated live and on film.

EXCITEMENT ON TV

A good many people watching the CBS documentary on the civil rights bill must have been impressed Wednesday night with what can be done with the traditional college debate format.

Senators HUBERT HUMPHREY and STROM THURMOND, standing behind simple wooden rostrums like those available in any meeting hall, brought more excitement and substance to the program than half an hour of slick camera work and smooth script could have possibly done.

There was fire in their presentations. There were interruptions, but general adherence to the rules of debate. Expressions from one Senator evoked immediate responses from the other.

All in all, it was such a lively exchange—briefly summarizing the positions of the two sides in the civil rights debate—that a viewer with any interest at all in the subject felt compelled to keep watching.

Unlike the Kennedy-Nixon debates, time was not so formally divided that spontaneity had to be lessened. The Senators had equal time, but there could be split second intrusions of one upon the other.

It is surprising to think that such a simple device, tried and true long before television came along, could still be so effective and yet so little used. It enables the public to understand why the Lincoln-Douglas debates were so fascinating even to people without much interest in politics.

CBS, which deserves a favorable response to this bit of pioneering on an old frontier, should do it again.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. MORSE. I yield.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I commend the Senator from Oregon for the excellent way in which he has presented his views to the Senate. The Senator always presents his views on all subjects in a forceful manner. When he touches on legal questions, I listen to him with much interest, for I know he will present views which will be useful and beneficial to me. The senior Senator from Oregon has had much experience in the interpretation of laws enacted by Congress of committees reports and statements made in the Senate concerning legislative matters.

I wish to ask the Senator a question: Is it not also true that when we have before us a bill such as this, the mere changing of a few words here and there might change the entire interpretation and meaning of the bill?

Mr. MORSE. There is no doubt about it. As I said in my speech, the bill is honeycombed with many legal problems. The precise meaning of words will be

very important. The courts will go through the bill with a fine-tooth legal comb in reaching a conclusion as to its legal import. That is why I made my plea for a committee report.

Mr. JOHNSTON. The meaning and context of many of the words in the bill are not explained.

Mr. MORSE. As I said, the debate during the past 2 weeks shows much confusion among the proponents and the opponents as to the meaning of many sections of the bill. That is why I should like to have the advantage of a committee report.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I thoroughly agree with the Senator from Oregon. The committee should have a right to study the bill and make suggestions to improve it. That is done with respect to all other bills. Is not that the reason for the establishment of committees?

Mr. MORSE. That is correct. I thank the Senator from South Carolina for his kind remarks.

Does the Senator from New York wish me to yield to him, or does he wish to obtain the floor in his own right?

Mr. KEATING. I desire to obtain the floor in my own right.

Mr. MORSE. I yield the floor.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. President, the Senator from Oregon has moved that the Senate refer the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary. The Senator has made an eloquent and learned appeal that the Senate avail itself of the wisdom of the investigatory and deliberative processes of the Judiciary Committee.

Speaking as a member of that committee, I express gratitude to him for the high appraisals he places on its members. I defer to none in my estimate of the committee's capabilities, industry, and integrity.

But I must question the Senator's premise that sending this bill to the Judiciary Committee—the traditional graveyard for civil rights legislation—will somehow add to the body of knowledge in this area, will provide a forum for objective discussion of the merits of the proposal and will offer an opportunity for a number of witnesses to testify, and all the members of the committee to question those witnesses.

I speak as a member of that committee. It is understandable to me that anyone who is not a member of that committee might well make the argument which the distinguished Senator from Oregon has made. A Senator would have to serve on the committee in order to understand some of the difficulties involved in the course which he proposes. With all fervor and sincerity, may I say to the Senator that I disagree with the reasoning behind his motion.

The chairman of the Judiciary Committee has decided that the rules of the Senate are also applicable to the committee. This means that a "boreathon" is not only possible, but predictable in the committee. It has happened before and, I assure you, it will happen again.

Last year, 17 civil rights bills, including the administration's civil rights package, were referred to the Constitutional Rights Subcommittee. One, providing for the extension of the Civil Rights Commission was the subject of

hearings and was favorably reported—with minority views, of course—to the full committee. Fifteen bills received no consideration whatsoever.

On July 16, 17, 18, 24, 25, 30, and 31; on August 1, 8, and 23; and on September 11 of last year, the committee held hearings on the omnibus civil rights bill and received the testimony of one witness. During those 11 days, we heard over 400 pages of testimony from the Attorney General of the United States. September 11, 1963, was the last of 11 days of hearings on this bill—and as the record shows, at 12 noon, the committee adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair. We have remained subject to the call of the Chair for over 7 months now, and never during that extended period when civil rights was being intensively discussed in other committees and in the other Chamber did we receive the call of the Chair. Yet, during that 7 months, there was never any reason to doubt that the bill would come before this body, or that our hearings would become academic due to extraneous circumstances.

I can only infer from this that having subjected the Attorney General to intensive and exhaustive questioning, the chairman felt that the committee had satisfied itself with respect to the need for further testimony.

Mr. EASTLAND. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. KEATING. I yield.

Mr. EASTLAND. Is it not true that at the conclusion of the Attorney General's testimony, the bill was referred to the Constitutional Rights Subcommittee at the request of several members of the Judiciary Committee?

Mr. KEATING. That is correct.

Mr. EASTLAND. And it is there now. The Senator discusses the Judiciary Committee. Is not the bill in the Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights?

Mr. KEATING. It is in the Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, of which the distinguished Senator from North Carolina [Mr. ERVIN] is the chairman.

Mr. MORSE. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. KEATING. I yield.

Mr. MORSE. Under my motion, the bill would not go to a subcommittee; it would go to the Judiciary Committee. I have checked the parliamentary rules and find that I am quite right in my understanding that a majority of that committee can meet and sign a report and submit that report to the Senate as a report of the majority of the committee. If a "hassle" occurs in committee, in which parliamentary difficulties are thrown in the way by the minority, that should be stated in the report. The report should state what the problem was. But that report, with the signature of the majority members of the committee, would become the report of the majority of the committee. No member of the minority could prevent the committee from taking that action.

Mr. KEATING. There is no question that the majority of the committee can make a report. On the other hand, there would be very little on which to report. A prediction that the committee will