

In view of remarks made on the floor of the Senate today, and later amended to appear in the Congressional Record, by Senator Long of Louisiana, I feel that it is necessary for me to issue a statement.

I want to review briefly the course of events which led to my extended speech in the Senate on Wednesday and Thursday.

At the final caucus of the Southern Senators on Saturday, August 24, it was generally agreed that an organized extended debate would not be held. However, it was also agreed that each Senator was on his "own" to oppose the bill as best he could. From the beginning, I made up my mind that it was my duty to oppose the bill strongly. Last week-end I prepared an address from the material I had been assembling for a long time, although I still had not decided how long I would speak.

After further consideration of the so-called civil rights bill and the compromise proposed by the House, I came to the conclusion that I should make a long speech against the bill. Also, I came to the conclusion that further consideration should be given to the question of whether organized extended debate should be conducted by the Southern Senators.

When I arrived at this latter conclusion on Wednesday, I went to Senator Russell's office and told him that I planned to make a long speech and suggested that he call the Southern Senators into session again to consider the advisability of an organized effort. Senator Russell stated that if a majority of the Southern Senators requested him to do so, he would call them back for another caucus, but, that in lieu of such requests, he would not call another caucus in view of the previous understanding on Saturday that each Senator would follow his own course.