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Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, the action taken today by the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) is fully within his rights under the rules of the Senate. It is an extraordinary parliamentary procedure, but I must admit that I know of no precedent where a Senate bill or Senate joint resolution that contained any matter under controversy was passed in this manner. I believe the procedure today does make a dramatic point; but it would not do the substance of the joint resolution and its hope of ultimate enactment any good to think that this procedure in itself will be effective. Even before it was done, it was vigorously protested that the Leadership would be blocked from bringing this measure that bypassed committees of both bodies to the floor. I think that support for the measure would be greatly weakened if this measure introduced today were actually brought before the Senate without a committee recommendation.

I strongly favor the proposal of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), who has been a leader and a champion in this movement for a good many years. I wish to do all that will assure its enactment. I hope that the action today will dramatize the need to move on this matter.

If I interpreted correctly the statement made by the distinguished Senator from North Carolina (Mr. ERVIN), he seems to be moving in that direction. I hope that those who feel as strongly as Senator BAYH and I on this issue will communicate directly with the Judiciary Committee to urge that the identical proposal before that committee be given the highest priority. The leadership will give its assurances that the joint resolution will be brought to the Senate floor for consideration by the full Senate shortly after the joint resolution is reported from our Judiciary Committee. After the committee reports, there is no basis for undercutting the leadership in proceeding to its consideration swiftly and no reason to contest the validity of the proposal as being ill-considered or considered in a nondeliberative way.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I should like to receive recognition. I think I can anticipate what is going to happen to me in the form of pressure because I know what happened in the last Congress, and I do not look forward with anticipation to what is being proposed. So I should like to be recognized to make my position clear.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized for 3 minutes.