

# Backers of Rights Bill Map A Sudden Switch in Strategy

## 67 Ironclad Votes Sought To Speed New Compromise

WASHINGTON (AP)—An abrupt change in strategy by supporters of the civil rights bill appeared Monday as the marathon Senate controversy stretched into its 10th week and 52d session.

The new battle plan is to pound out a compromise package, outside the Senate chamber, and then try to pledge 67 members from both parties—a two-thirds majority—to stand solidly behind it on all votes.

This would be no easy accomplishment, but it would duplicate the strength majority leader Mike Mansfield (D-

Mont.) and minority leader Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill.) massed March 26 to make the bill the pending Senate business.

SENATE maneuvers on the measure began March 9 when it arrived in the Senate after House passage. Although the flood of oratory got under way



SEN. MIKE MANSFIELD



SEN. EVERETT DIRKSEN

promptly, the bill wasn't officially the pending Senate business until a 67 to 17 vote to make it such was attained March 26.

Initially, Senate sponsors talked about trying to pass the

House bill without major changes. This would have obviated its return to the House.

Longer-than-usual daily sessions and Saturday meetings failed to dampen the Southerners' oratorical ardor, but they finally allowed votes last week on the first of more than 100 amendments.

These tests involved attempts to make provisions for jury trials in contempt-of-court cases arising from the bill.

MEANWHILE a series of daily conferences has been held in Dirksen's office. With all factions except the Southern opponents represented, this group has been laboriously seeking agreement on all provisions of the legislation.

Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy and his top legal aides have been participating. And all results are cleared also with key House members for expected later action there.

There was no session Saturday but debate on the measure continued elsewhere.

The leader of Southern senators, Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), told a Georgia audience that opponents lack the votes to prevent eventual passage and that the final outcome is uncertain.

Senators James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) and John Sparkman (D-Ala.) in a program taped for radio use, said they would fight to prevent any watering down of the measure—the inference being that such compromises might bring Senate approval.

SEN. KENNETH B. Keating (R-N.Y.) said President Johnson should "lift the telephone and do a little talking" with Southern senators in an effort to get the bill passed without crippling amendments.

Mr. Johnson told audiences North and South that a civil rights bill will be passed, even if round-the-clock Senate sessions are required.

Two Negro civil rights leaders James A. Farmer, director of the Congress of Racial Equality, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, appealed in radio-television interviews against weakening the bill through amendments.

[Miscellaneous 1964]