

policy of his own, using every possible means to impose that policy on majority as well as minority''(n). Again our author says, "the House of Representatives in the same way is no longer the legislative power, and it is not the maker of the legislative power, it is but the maker of the real maker, the Speaker of the House of Representatives''(o). I have already pointed out that it rests with the Speaker to constitute the all-powerful committees, and that he is himself now *ex officio* the chairman of the most important committee of all, namely, that upon rules, of which he appoints, of course, the other two members. This committee practically decides what shall be considered, how long debates shall last, and when the vote shall be taken. The calendars are far too crowded for any measures to come forward not favoured by this powerful committee of three persons(p). The Speaker has many opportunities to constitute the committees so that he may to a great extent procure or prevent whatever legislation he wishes. He may give a good committee to a poor chairman, or he may satisfy the general opinion in the appointment of a chairman and then give him a committee which represents the Speaker's, and not the chairman's, views, and on which therefore the chairman cannot act. When we have got so far as this, it will scarcely occasion any surprise to hear that the practice has gradually grown up of the Speaker using the parliamentary duty of recognition for political purposes, and recognizing only such persons as he pleases. Again and again when a man rises the Speaker asks "for what purpose." Indeed the records of Congress, as we find from Miss Follett, may almost parallel the story of the Lieutenant-Governor of a Western State, who when presiding over the Senate turned to the doorkeeper and said, "Go out and find Senator Gumsor—he is somewhere about the Capitol—and tell him that he has been recognized and has the floor."

The practice as to the Speaker's power of recognition makes

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(n) *The Speaker of the House of Representatives*, p. 274.

(o) *Ibid.*

(p) *Ibid.*, pp. 274, 277.