

Moreover, since the parties are composed of men of both parties, the legislation is the work of both parties, and so the people can hold neither party for bad legislation.

Again the most obvious result of this system is graft. Responsibility is divided over both parties and through 62 committees, and divided responsibility leads to graft. In a small committee the individual vote has its power increased to a great extent, and thus individual considerations are satisfied at the expense of the nation. The entire expenditure of the national government is controlled by a committee of fifteen men. This committee meets only while Congress is in session, and so has to spend the most of its time in formulating plans rather than in submitting plans already formulated. Thus the huge budget, involving hundreds of millions of dollars, has to be rushed through during the closing days without being debated, criticized or understood. Certainly in this small committee, which does not give the House a chance to criticize its work, personal considerations, and those of influential supporters, are responsible for the millions of dollars which annually are unaccounted for.

In this connection it must be remembered that many of the Representatives have obtained their seats through corruption. It is true that there is a law requiring each candidate to file an account of his election expenses, but as the most of the States do not require any sum to be mentioned under ten dollars, the letter of the law has killed the effect.

Again, Congress does not meet until one year after the election and on a certain fixed date it must dissolve regardless of the legislation accomplished. This results in a terrible rush during the closing days, the rules are suspended and bills are moved, seconded and passed with no discussion. As many as 800 bills has been rushed through during the closing sitting of Congress.

Now democracy, as that term has been defined to us, means "reflecting public wishes," that is in the readiness with which parliament follows public opinion, in the promptness with which the public will is expressed, and in the degree that Parliament is responsible to the people. Now in the light of the facts which I have shown you, I submit that the House of Representatives is not democratic.