Member of the Congress of the United States, I am proud to be a politician." Gillis regarded the privileges and power of his office as an instrument through which he could better serve his God and his fellowman. He was a frequent visitor to the legislative process and offered bills to the committee. He said, "Old wood is burning, old wine is drunk, old authors are read, and old friends are trusted." Gillis Long had over a hundred bills held up for consideration for some special assistance. He never sought to be a fellowman, but held his power as an instrument through which he could better serve his God and his fellowman. He was frequently quoting passages from the Bible that indicated his reverence for the elderly. He said, "The committee's deliberations are the most important stage of the legislative process. It is here that detailed study of the proposed legislation is made. People who need assistance whether poor, old, or having some other requirement for aid, are given the right to present their views in public hearings. When the chairman has set a date for public hearings it is generally announced by publication in the Congressional Record. Copies of the bill under consideration by the committee are customarily sent to the executive departments or agencies concerned with the subject matter for their official views to be presented in writing or by oral testimony before the committee. The number of witnesses, pro and con, heard by the committee, is the importance of the proposed legislation and degree of public interest in it. Testimony heard. The transcript of the testimony taken is available for the individual committee offices. Quite frequently, dependent on the importance of the subject matter, the committee hearings on a bill are printed and copies made available to the public. After conclusion of the hearings the committee proceeds to consider the bill for its final dispositions—sometimes referred to as "markup" sessions—to discuss the bill in detail and to consider such amendments as any member of the committee may offer. Each committee has its own rules of procedure but they generally conform to the rules of the House itself. The committee vote. By a formal vote of the committee, it decides whether to report favorably to the House the bill with or without committee amendments. A committee report must accompany the bill setting forth the nature of the bill and reasons for the committee's recommended approval. The report sets forth specifically the committee amendments and reasons for the committee action. Each House, indicates all changes the bill would make in existing law. Any committee member, individually or jointly, may file additional, supplementary views to accompany the majority committee report. The committee report, accompanying the bill, is viewed by the courts and the administrative agencies as the most important document as to the intent of the Congress in the proposed legislation. After reporting. When a bill is reported by the committee it is placed on the calendar. The majority leadership decides how and when the bill will be considered on the floor. In general the bill is allowed to remain on the calendar for members to become acquainted with its provisions. In both the House and the Senate unanimous measures of relatively minor importance are disposed of by unanimous consent. In the Senate, where debate is unlimited, major bills are brought up on motion of the majority leader in the House and the Senate are called up under a privileged resolution reported from the Rules Committee which fixes the limits of debate and whether amendments may be offered. The Rules Committee resolution is called a rule for consideration of a bill; a closed rule if no amendments are allowed, as is generally the case in tax bills, and an open rule if amendments can be offered. Reaching consensus. While there are distinct differences between the House and Senate procedures, in general a bill is debated at length with the proponents and opponents presenting their views to acquaint the membership, as well as the general public, with the issues involved, and all with a view to arriving at the consensus. Amendments are frequently offered to make the measure more in conformance with the views of a majority. In the course of consideration of the bill there are various parliamentary motions, in both the House and the Senate, which may be offered to determine the sentiment of the members with respect to the pending legislation. The measure may be postponed to some future date or referred back to the committee which reported it.

With the conclusion of general debate and the consideration of the bill for amendments, the question becomes whether the House or Senate, as the case may be, will pass the bill as reported by the committee. Records of the day the bill was under consideration will set forth the verbatim debate on the bill and the disposition made of such amendments as were offered. With the passage of a bill by either body it is messaged to the other with the request that they concur. If no action has been taken on the like measure by the body receiving the message the bill is usually referred to the appropriate committee of that body for consideration. Hearings are again held and the bill reported for floor action. On relatively minor or noncontroversial matters the Senate or the House accepts the measure as messaged to it by the other body.

If there are substantial differences between the House and Senate versions of a given bill, the measure is sent to a conference committee which is appointed by the Speaker and the President pro tempore of the Senate from the ranking committee members of each body having original jurisdiction over the bill. The object of the conference committee is to adjust the differences between the two bodies, and to report back to each its agreement. The report of the conference committee must be in writing and signed by both the committee members. On relatively minor or noncontroversial matters the Senate or the House accepts the measure as messaged to it by the other body.

Conferees report. The report of the conference committee cannot be amended and must be either agreed to or rejected by each House as it stands. If either House finds itself unable to accept the conference committee report a further conference is usually requested.

When the bill has been agreed to in identical form by both bodies a copy of the bill is enrolled, signed by the Speaker and by the President of the Senate and transmitted from the ranking committee members of each body, having original jurisdiction over the bill. The object of the conference committee is to adjust the differences between the two bodies, and to report back to each its agreement. The report of the conference committee must be in writing and signed by both the committee members. On relatively minor or noncontroversial matters the Senate or the House accepts the measure as messaged to it by the other body.

If the President should return the bill, with his objections, to the originating body of the Congress, his veto may be overridden by two-thirds of both the Senate and House respectively voting to have the measure become law the President's objection notwithstanding. Both the President's veto message and a record of the vote of the individual Members in the motion to override are required by the Constitution and set forth in the Congressional Record.

FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT: MAKING A GOOD INDUSTRY EVEN BETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Atkins) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ANUNZIO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 237 is a bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to provide for...