

July 1, 1965

IMPORTANT - MEMBERS ATTENTION

TO: MEMBERS

FROM: Mo Udall, Secretary

SUBJECT: DSG WHIP SYSTEM INNOVATIONS FOR ACTION ON VOTING RIGHTS BILL

The important Voting Rights bill (H.R. 6400) will be considered by the House next week. Additional information on the scheduling, as well as our DSG Fact Sheet on the bill will be forwarded to you shortly. It now appears, however, that the crucial votes will take place on Thursday, July 8th and Friday July 9th, with the possibility of a Saturday session to complete action on the bill.

Because of the large number of amendments that will probably be offered by opponents during consideration of the bill in the Committee of the Whole, it has been decided to employ the highly-successful "Buddy System" utilized during the debate on the 1964 Civil Rights bill. It made possible the defeat of virtually every crippling amendment and reduced the need for DSG Whip Calls by telephone to Members' offices to a bare minimum.

Briefly, here is how it works:

Each of the 25 DSG Members (mostly DSG officers, regional whips, or Members of the DSG Civil Rights Steering Committee) has been made responsible for the floor attendance of 6 other Members. It will be their job to keep in contact with you on the House floor so that the votes needed on division and/or teller votes on crippling amendments offered in the Committee of the Whole can be produced quickly and efficiently.

This will be of tremendous help to the floor manager of the bill, our colleague, Mannie Celler, and to the Speaker and the Democratic leadership that is so deeply committed to passage of the Voting Rights bill without weakening amendments.

The consideration of such amendments will be a long and tedious process. The job being assigned to the 25 Members is a difficult one. We hope that you will cooperate with the Member who is responsible for your attendance on the House floor during the critical stages of voting on amendments. It is essential to the successful passage of the Voting Rights bill.

