

From the Office of Rep. Bob Dole

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Cincinnati, Ohio—"Nationally we are moving rapidly toward one-party government under one-man rule", Rep. Bob Dole told members of the Ohio State Young Republican League here Saturday night. "Traditionally", Dole said, "the President proposed and the Congress disposed. Now LBJ does both".

"Developing a consensus" sounds like a Democratic process, but in operation this device is smothering all constructive opposition. Dole charged that detailed provisions of legislation are drafted, not in the committees of Congress, but in the bureaucratic factories within the Johnson administration's executive departments. Leading Democrats in Congress are then induced to introduce the legislation. LBJ's bills move hurriedly through legislative sub-committees, full committees, and the Congress itself, with no amendments permitted except those sanctioned by the White House. There is little or no time for public understanding, evaluation, suggestion, or other popular participation in our supposed system of self-government.

Once the Senate or House has acted, the legislation must then be rushed through the other Body without changing so much as a word or a comma. This was true of the Appalachia program and of Federal Aid to Education. Thus the Congress is being transformed into a new type of unicameral body.

"Let there be no mistake about it", Dole further stated. "The present weakness of the Republican party is not simply a problem for the Republicans. It is a national problem. It is a problem all Americans must understand, and it is a responsibility that all Americans must shoulder. The ultimate contest in which we are engaged is the defense of our traditional two-party system, which, since the founding of the Republic, has furnished the flesh and blood for the raw skeleton of our Constitutional system.

"All Americans who love their country deeply surely are aware of the importance of the role of a MAJORITY and a MINORITY PARTY. If this system fails, our governmental system fails with it," Dole concluded.