

SPECIAL TO SPARKY -- MONDAY, OCT. 7, 1968

"I have never been so shocked and disturbed during my eight years in Congress as I was early Wednesday morning when the Democrat leadership literally imprisoned Members of the House in an effort to compel action on the TV equal-time proposal which Hubert Humphrey strongly supports.

"On Monday, Humphrey visited the Capitol and urged the Democrat leadership to rejuggle the schedule so the equal-time proposal would be considered as the first order of business Tuesday.

"The schedule was changed accordingly, and the 24-hour marathon that followed indicates how desperate both Mr. Humphrey and the leaders of the Democrat party in Congress must be.

"There was certainly no justification for locking up the Members for nearly three hours. In my opinion, this constituted improper action in depriving Members of their freedom of movement to and from the House chamber.

"I would hope this procedure would never be repeated in the Congress of the U.S., and it should be a lesson to the majority party, whichever one it might be, that abuse of power is worse than no exercise of power at all.

The Democrat leadership probably regrets locking up the Members and detaining them against their will, but the record is there and cannot be changed. The American people are entitled to know the full implication of this action for it is another clear indication that America needs a change in leadership.