

WILLIAM C. CRAMER  
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

JACK P. INSCO  
DISTRICT ASSISTANT  
WILMA M. WILEY  
DISTRICT SECRETARY

DISTRICT OFFICE:

302 SECURITY FEDERAL BLDG.  
2800 9TH ST. NO.  
ST. PETERSBURG  
PHONE 862-6708

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**COMMITTEES:**  
**JUDICIARY**  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTI-TRUST LEGISLATION  
SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUBMERGED  
LANDS LEGISLATION  
**PUBLIC WORKS**  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RIVERS AND HARBORS  
PUBLIC ROADS  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS  
SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE  
FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY PROGRAM  
**PARTY COMMITTEES:**  
VICE CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL  
CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE  
VICE CHAIRMAN, REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
ASSISTANT WHIP

September 13, 1966

90-7  
Civil Rights

Dear Colleague:

On August 8th of this year, you joined 388 of your colleagues in supporting an anti-riot amendment to the civil rights bill which would make it a Federal offense to travel in or use a facility of interstate commerce with the intent of inciting a riot or other form of violent civil disobedience.

Since you voted for that amendment, riots of a racial nature have occurred in: New York; Grenada, Mississippi; Lansing, Muskegon, Detroit, Benton Harbor, Michigan; Cicero & Waukegan, Illinois; Dayton, Ohio; Atlanta, Georgia; and Washington, D. C.

In view of this continued violence, and because it now appears that the 1966 Civil Rights Bill containing the anti-riot amendment has no chance of passage by the Senate (quoting Senator Mansfield), I have introduced a separate bill which is identical to the anti-riot amendment to the civil rights bill, for which you have already voted.

I am hopeful you will join me in co-sponsoring this legislation which I believe this Congress has a duty to enact into law before adjournment. I am asking Chairman Celler of the House Judiciary Committee to schedule the bill for immediate Judiciary Committee action. Attached is a copy of the bill which you can introduce. Attached also is a copy of a press release which gives a number of compelling reasons why passage of this bill this session is essential.

Sincerely,

*WCC*  
William C. Cramer, M. C.

WCC/my  
Enclosures



FOR RELEASE: Immediate

FROM: The Office of Congressman William C. Cramer

September 12, 1966

CRAMER CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE  
ACTION INTRODUCES ANTI-RIOT BILL IN  
VIEW OF PROBABLE DEMISE OF 1966 CIVIL RIGHTS BILL

WASHINGTON. . . U.S. Rep. William C. Cramer, R-Fla., today introduced a bill, identical in language and intent, to his successful anti-riot amendment to the 1966 Civil Rights Bill, which would make it a Federal offense to travel in or use a facility of interstate commerce with the intent of inciting a riot or other form of violent civil disobedience.

Cramer said the need for enactment of separate legislation in this area has been made necessary because of the pronouncements of Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield and others suggesting that the 1966 Civil Rights Bill has no chance of passing the Senate this session. The Cramer anti-riot amendment is included in the House passed version of that bill.

Cramer, a ranking Minority Member of the House Judiciary Committee, said that he has directed a letter to House Judiciary Committee Chairman, Emanuel Celler, D-N.Y., calling for immediate action by the Judiciary Committee on the bill.

"So replete is the Record with evidence testifying to the need for this legislation that lengthy hearings on this bill are unnecessary," Cramer told the House in a floor speech accompanying the introduction of his bill.

"The demise of the Civil Rights Bill of 1966 should not be allowed to defeat a most compelling and non-controversial provision of the bill such as the anti-riot amendment. That it is non-controversial has been adequately demonstrated by the overwhelming vote of 389 to 25 it received in this Body. That it is needed is obvious to all who have read the reports of the violence that has flared -- and continues to flare up-- in the major cities of America," Cramer continued.

"The bill is needed to cope with those riot-leaders that direct the riots through the use of interstate facilities such as the telephone but who do not actually take part in the riots themselves.

"It is needed to give investigative authority that has power to cross state lines.

"It is needed to bring action against riot leaders where local political pressures now prevent state and local action.

"It is needed to act as a deterrent because of the strong penalties it provides as compared to many local and state laws. (Punishable by a fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment for a period of 5 years or both.)

"And it is needed so that this Congress can reaffirm in the form of positive legislation its determination to put an end to organized mobocracy," Cramer said.

"This Congress cannot in good faith adjourn before meeting one of the most crying needs and pressing demands in America today . . . the enactment into law of strong, anti-riot legislation to deal with the anarchists who would take lives and destroy property and seek to justify their actions under the halo of 'civil rights'," Cramer said.



89th Congress

2d Session

H.R.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which  
was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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A BILL

To amend title 18 of the United States Code to prohibit travel or use of any facility in interstate or foreign commerce with intent to incite a riot or other violent civil disturbance, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that title 18 of the United States Code is amended by inserting, immediately after chapter 101 thereof, the following new chapter:

"Chapter 102.--RIOTS AND OTHER VIOLENT  
CIVIL DISTURBANCES

"§ 2101. Riots

"Whoever moves or travels in interstate or foreign commerce or uses any facility in interstate or foreign commerce, including the mail, with intent to - -

"(1) incite, promote, encourage, or carry on, or facilitate the incitement, promotion, encouragement, or carrying on of, a riot or other violent civil disturbance;

or

"(2) commit any crime of violence, arson, bombing, or other act which is a felony or high misdemeanor under Federal or State law, in furtherance of, or during commission of, any act specified in paragraph (1); or

"(3) assist, encourage, or instruct any person to commit or perform any act specified in paragraphs (1) and (2);  
and thereafter performs or attempts to perform any act specified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both."



SEC. 2. The table of contents of "Part I-Crimes" of title 18 of the United States Code is amended by inserting after the following:

"101. Records and reports-----2071"

the following new chapter reference:

"102. Riots-----and other violent civil disturbances-----2101"..

SEC. 3. Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed as indicating an intent on the part of the Congress to occupy the field in which any provision of this Act operates to the exclusion of State laws on the same subject matter, nor shall any provision of this Act be construed as invalidating any provision of State law unless such provision is inconsistent with any of the purposes of this Act or provision thereof.