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offense. This bill then has a separate offense, in effect, to make those persons who are participating in disturbing the peace but fail to disperse upon request also criminally guilty. So there is two different kind of charges that could be lodged against those people, and police officers ought to have that kind of discretion. But this amendment makes certain that news reporters, that innocent picketers, that peaceful demonstrators and the like are not also swept up in the net of criminal acts and convictions. It takes out two words "and others". Now as I indicated earlier, the reason this bill is being discussed very carefully on this floor by very thoughtful and conscientious people on all sides of the issue is because we know we are playing with a sacred right. We are playing with that sacred right which is just as important, if not more so than law and order. It is the right of individual freedom. It is the right to peacefully assemble. It is the right...it is the freedom of the press. It is the kind of rights that we have fought and died for in our country for year in and year out. It is as important to us as honor in the foreign fields. It is as important to us as an orderly society, and that is why this is an important bill and that is why this amendment is a significant amendment, because it more carefully limits the kinds of assemblies that can be controlled through the criminal law processes. I ask your support for the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the Johnson amendment to the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Voting on the Johnson amendment. Strikes two words. Have you all voted? Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: This is an amendment to the committee amendment, is it not, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Yes, sir. Okay, record.

CLERK: 19 ayes, 6 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Johnson's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is adopted. The motion is carried and the amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Now, Mr. President, we are on the amended committee amendments. No, I'm sorry...Mr. President, Senator Decamp moves to amend the committee amendments by adding the following language: "Providing nothing in this bill shall prevent people from peaceably assembling". (Page 996 of the Legislative Journal.)