unanimous consent. This bill, however, before the final vote, should be read entirely through under the five-minute rule, in order that each section may be open to debate and amendment. It occurs to me that it would be better now to modify the order, appropriating one day for general debate and the two remaining days for the consideration of amendments under the five-minute rule. It seems to me desirable that we should reach some agreement by which we may be relieved from so much of the order as brings us to a vote at 4 o'clock on Thursday. In other words, the bill should be read through. I regret that the order as read is not more in accordance with the views I had in mind. I am going to suggest that if it can be done we modify the order so that the general debate may be concluded in one day; or if that can not be done, that we rescind the order for a vote at 4 o'clock on Thursday and let the bill be read through for debate and amendment. If that can be concluded by 4 o'clock on Thursday, all the remainder of the amendment and debate under the five-minute rule.

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Speaker, I suggest to the distinguished gentlemen from Tennessee [Mr. RICHARDSON] whether it would not be well to go on for at least one day of general discussion under the rule as adopted. Perhaps at the expiration of that time the desire for general debate may not be so pressing as it has been. There has been a very great demand on both sides of the House for discussion of this bill—a demand so pressing that it could not be fully yielded to.

Another answer to the gentleman's objection is this: This bill is for the establishment of a Territorial government; it contains 102 sections. A very large part of the bill comprises, of course, provisions for the Territorial government, as we are all familiar with. I think the amendments will be confined probably to a very few sections, involving differences of view among members as to what the government ought to be. I am not myself apprehensive (I may be mistaken) of a lack of time to judge of the provisions of the bill.

Mr. RICHARDSON. There are over 100 sections in this bill; and if the reading under the five-minute rule should commence at half past 12 o'clock on Thursday, it would take two hours—possibly it would take till 4 o'clock—without allowing any time for offering and discussing amendments. I would wish that the bill could be read, and the order of the bill questioned.

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Speaker, there are 100 sections in this bill, and if the reading under the five-minute rule should commence at half past 12 o'clock on Thursday, it would take two hours—possibly it would take till 4 o'clock—without allowing any time for offering and discussing amendments. I would wish that the bill could be read, and the order of the bill questioned.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. Pending that, and before I object.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. I am inclined to be of the opinion that the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands may be considered as the consummation of a long-settled policy upon the part of the United States or as the commencement of a new era of territorial expansion and commercial development, the steps that have been taken can not be retraced. Hawaiian is American territory absolutely and, humanly speaking, forever.

But while it is American territory, it does not possess American government. A part of the United States, it has no government of its own. Provisions for its government are not in force. The people of the Hawaiian Islands, however, constitute a large portion of the Hawaiian Islands. The Hawaiian Islands, no subject of public policy has received the consideration of the American people more extensively than this. It has been debated for the larger part of the century now closing, both in Congress and the popular forum. It has been the subject of conferences and discussion—of no permanent annexation have failed. But however great has been the difference of opinion in the United States upon the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, there has been, and, to-day, no difference of opinion as to the danger and menace should they fall into the possession of any foreign power or nation.

And it has been the uniform position of the Government that acquisition of these islands by a foreign nation would be regarded by the United States as an unfriendly act.

The discussion which had been continuous for so great a part of our national existence came to a sudden and unexpected termina-

tion. Its end was in the events of the Spanish war, events which form an epoch in the history of this country and of the world.

That war made apparently general to the people of the United States the strategic necessity of those islands, in view of war and the affairs of Europe, and the necessity of securing for the protection of those islands in the event of naval operations in the Northern Pacific. In all that vast expanse of water, as is said in the report of the distinguished gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HARR], from the Equator to Alaska, from the shores of Asia to the shores of the United States, there is but one point where the United States can hope to guard the High Seas against the power of any nation to control, and that is the islands of the Hawaiian group. The islands of the Hawaiian group, we are told, are the gateway to the Pacific Ocean, to the Orient, to the Southern seas, to the shores of New Zealand, to the shores of Australia, to the shores of China, and to the shores of Japan. It is the gateway to the Orient, and the Orient is the gateway to all the lands of the world.

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