Mr. McAleeer. Mr. Chairman, I do not wish at this time to speak on this bill, but perhaps later on I may say something on the subject. I believe a number of gentlemen on this side anxious to be heard, and I will yield to the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. Robinson].

Mr. Williams of Mississippi. Before the gentleman from Indiana begins, I would like to suggest that an attempt be made to have the bill referred to either the committee on foreign relations or to the committee on the House of Representatives. Never before has a commission presented a measure to either body with provisions so un-American, so hostile to the genius of our institutions, as the bill recommended by this commission.

The bill before the House is that bill torn to pieces and dismantled by the committee, and, save on the subject of contract labor, it might be identified as American.

This Hawaiian bill nowhere and in no wise protects or encourages American labor, here or there, and this policy is in keeping with the action of the commission in taking an hour and a half to an hour and a half to the hour of the admission of the Hawaiian Islands. It is time to call a halt and to make an inquiry. You of the majority have done nothing, absolutely nothing, to promote the inauguration of contract labor into the Hawaiian Islands, because influences there and here believe they can exploit them for commercial ends—the only motive that moves them—better by contract labor, and I will prove it.

You call caucuses to pass party measures. Why not go to some end to protect labor and destroy this infamous contract-labor system?

On the contrary, you provide by section 10 of this bill "that all obligations, contracts, and rights of action shall continue to be effectual," and that "penal proceedings shall be carried on," etc., with the treachery of the Hawaiian Islands, so that the enactment of this bill will continue to exist in the minds and on the plantations. These involuntary imprisonments with a felon's stripes shall be the remedy for enforcing civil rights between the favored masters of Hawaii and the cringing contract-labor slaves. It means that you would attack the interest of the laborers by the labor and money in Hawaii. True, the Senate amendment, which I hope will prevail here, strikes these contracts down.

Yielding to the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, than whom none is more popular here or in his State, than whom none is more respected, I yield to him. But I do not yield to an advocate of the worst character for probity and good intentions, ability and skill as a lawyer, and as to his colleagues on the commission in the Senate I say the same, yet—[measure my words]—these Americans, the foreigners, as commissioners, were seduced and connived by their Hawaiian friends. It is a reproach that I wish to be wiped out.

Passing over the wiring and dining of the commission over on those delightful islands by the nobles and the government officers, I pass to the result of the inspiration produced, as reflected in their report. First, on page 17, they say:

The question whether white labor can be profitably utilized in the sugar plantations of the Hawaiian islands is a problem which has not been solved, but that some think that white labor will prove superior to "Chinese and Japanese labor." The answer is that the work is not sufficiently profitable to employ sufficient white labor to prove the question answered. It is more profitable to employ a large number of Chinese or Japanese labor and to employ a greater number of Chinese or Japanese labor. The question is whether white labor is as cheap as Chinese or Japanese labor.

Under this influence they found, in the absence of any representatives of labor, that white labor "is yet a problem," not yet solved, but that some think that white labor will prove superior to "Chinese and Japanese labor.

Disagreeable as it is, the proof is clear to me that those in power have not been led by the problem, but that the representatives of that commission and set out and recommended in this report are outlandish and un-American, and amount to a rape and destruction of American labor.

Who are ready to pass a bill to exclude the best class of immigrants from this country had better scan well the policy that has invited undesirable oriental contract labor to our islands and the system of slave contracts by which they are held.

We were told in both Houses as a reason for annexation that the climate was temperate and salubrious, the soil fertile, and that