

VOTING RIGHTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1960

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to executive session, at 11:10 a.m., in room 346, Old House Office Building, Hon. Emanuel Celler (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Celler, Walter, Lane, Willis, Rodino, Forrester, Rogers, Donohue, Brooks, Tuck, Ashmore, Holtzman, White-ner, Libonati, Loser, Toll, Kastenmeier, McCulloch, Miller, Poff, Moore, Meader, Lindsay, and Ray.

Also present: Bess E. Dick, staff director, and William R. Foley general counsel, William H. Crabtree, associate counsel.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order, please.

We have with us this morning the Deputy Attorney General, Lawrence E. Walsh, to give us an explanation of the so-called plan concerning voting referees in connection with civil rights.

Judge Walsh, we shall be very glad to hear from you at this time.

STATEMENT OF DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL LAWRENCE E. WALSH, ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN D. CALHOUN, ASSISTANT DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL; LUTHER HUSTON, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE; AND VICTOR S. FRIEDMAN, ATTORNEY, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I deeply appreciate the opportunity to come before you and discuss this matter, these bills which have followed the report of the Civil Rights Commission.

As you know, last September the Civil Rights Commission filed an interim report with the President and with the Congress. I think we can fairly summarize the section dealing with voting as concluding that there was a pattern of racial discrimination in certain sections of certain States in the administration of the State election laws.

The CHAIRMAN. Judge Walsh, I want to make a statement. Excuse me.

The hearings we are going to have are on these four bills that have been mentioned. The hearings are not on the civil rights bill that was reported by this committee and which is now pending before the Rules Committee. These hearings, I want the public to understand, these hearings are on these four bills which have been submitted concerning registrars and referees.