

VOTING RIGHTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1960

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

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:15 a.m., in room 346, Old House Office Building, Hon. Emanuel Celler (chairman) presiding.

Present: Representatives Celler, Lane, Feighan, Chelf, Willis, Rodino, Forrester, Rogers, Brooks, Dowdy, Holtzman, Whitener, Libonati, Toll, Kastenmeier, McCulloch, Poff, Moore, Smith, Meader, Henderson, Cahill, and Ray.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Gentlemen, the meeting will come to order.

We have with us today a very distinguished lawyer who has appeared on a number of occasions before this committee, and he has always appeared with great credit to himself and to the people that he represented, to the State which he represents.

He is a scholar and a man of great erudition, who speaks with great authority on the subject of civil rights as they affect his community.

I am sure, Mr. Bloch, we are very, very happy to hear from you again.

But, before we do so, I want to say that the hearings on these particular bills will end this afternoon, or upon the termination of your testimony, unless anyone else wishes to appear. But, in any event, the hearings will not go beyond this day. But the record will be held open for anyone to present their views for or against the bill for a period of 1 week.

Mr. WILLIS. Well, would that include the right, during that period of 1 particular week, for witnesses to make a personal appearance, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN. My statement would not permit that. The idea would be—we heard one witness last week. We hear a witness in opposition today. It was our purpose not to prolong these hearings. And if anyone wishes to express views, he can put them in the record.

Mr. WILLIS. Well, last week, Mr. Chairman, we voted upon the effect of your suggestion this morning. It was the judgment of the full committee that that should not be done. You will remember that I made a motion which prevailed that we would have open hearings for a reasonable period of time, so that the views of those in favor of and in opposition to the proposals would be made a matter of record at open hearings, with no intention, as put in my motion, to delay, and reserve it to the full committee, at one point or another, to set a time.