

However, I take it that you will be willing to subject yourself to some questions.

I refer you to your statement on page 5 where you say Georgia enacted statutes for the protection of the voters, and that those statutes set up an efficient, satisfactory, and beneficent type of machinery of voting.

Now, the Civil Rights Commission has examined the records of a number of States. I don't think they have as yet gone into that. But the Civil Rights Commission came up with a number of conclusions which clearly indicate there was deprivation of the right to vote. That deprivation was leveled against certain people because of their race and their color. There is no doubt about that, is there, Judge? That the Civil Rights Commission did come up with such findings?

Mr. BLOCH. There is no doubt about their having made such finding. I do doubt the accuracy of that finding in this respect. I am talking about Georgia now. I don't know what condition may exist in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, or even New York, or any other State. But I am talking about in Georgia.

If a person, colored or white, thinks he is deprived of the right to vote in Georgia, the right to register and vote, he has got a right to appeal from the decision of the registrars to a superior court, which is our court of last resort—trial court of last resort, highest trial court, and then to the court of appeals of the Supreme Court.

I have always thought, Mr. Chairman, that if people, colored or white, were sincere in their efforts, and merely wanted to vote, and not to create a political issue—but if what they wanted was the right to vote, that if when they applied to vote, and they were refused that right, what would they do? What would I do, or any member of the committee do, if he applied to the board of registrars of Bibb County, my residence, to vote? I would appeal to the superior court. And there he is entitled under our law to a trial de novo, and not merely on the evidence that was taken before the registrars. And then if I were not satisfied with what the superior court did, I would go to the court of appeals and the Supreme Court.

Mr. ROGERS. May I interrupt you there? Suppose you can't find a registrar in order to qualify, as this Civil Rights Commission showed in reports that in many instances the registrars even resigned, and they can't even find them? Well, now, if under your law you must make the application before you can appeal, what would you do in that case?

Mr. BLOCH. Mr. Rogers, I say again that I know the broad findings that the Civil Rights Commission have made. They have made the very sort of findings that I predicted they would make when I sat here before you in 1957 and 1958. But what I am trying to say is that so far as Georgia is concerned, they have not pointed out one single case in which a Negro has sought to register and been deprived of that right to register, and that Negro has appealed to the State courts for relief. Now, they have got the Terrell County case pending in which assertions are made that never have been proven, and I doubt if they ever can be proven.

The CHAIRMAN. It may be that the right exists to follow that legal process which you have indicated. But how could a poor Negro, for example, of limited means, follow that process successfully? Where would he get the money to do it?