

Mr. BLOCH. Well, does the U.S. Government have to furnish litigants the money to prosecute their cases?

The CHAIRMAN. I don't say the United States should do it. But that process is so far out of the reach of the ordinary Negro who is deprived of his vote as to render that process almost a nullity, as far as the aggrieved individual is concerned.

Mr. BLOCH. I daresay, Mr. Chairman, with all respect—I daresay that the same folks would furnish the money for that proceeding as are furnishing the money for the other proceedings that are being taken.

The CHAIRMAN. You are referring, I take it, to the NAACP.

Mr. BLOCH. In 1947 and 1948, there were several cases filed in the Federal courts in Georgia. But I never have known one—now, there may be one—I am not making the statement there hasn't been. I am saying I never have known one to be filed in a State court.

The CHAIRMAN. How many cases have been filed under that remedial process that you indicated by Negroes in the State of Georgia?

Mr. BLOCH. You mean under 1971(c)?

Mr. WILLIS. No, he is talking under Georgia law.

Mr. BLOCH. Under the Georgia law? I said I didn't know of any.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, therefore, if—

Mr. BLOCH. Any by a Negro.

The CHAIRMAN. Therefore, I assume there is a reasonable presumption that the process that you have indicated is not of any real and genuine value to those deprived of their right to vote.

Mr. BLOCH. I think the far more reasonable assumption is that they are not merely seeking the right to vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, taking the case—

Mr. BLOCH. A far more reasonable presumption is that they are just seeking publicity and the aid of the Government in trying to get these sort of bills driven through. They are trying to make you, Mr. Chairman, do the very thing that you are doing. That is to presume that an evil exists which hasn't been proven to exist.

Mr. McCULLOCH. Mr. Chairman, could I interrupt there? I would like to ask Mr. Bloch this question, then.

Is it your studied judgment that no Negroes otherwise qualified to vote have been denied the right to vote in Georgia in the last 2 or 5 years?

Mr. BLOCH. No, sir, I wouldn't say that. I wouldn't say that. If I had to guess, I would say that perhaps some of them have been deprived of the right to vote. But I say in connection with that, why don't they follow the procedure given to them by the Georgia law?

Mr. McCULLOCH. Well, I would like to ask two other questions, since we have that answer from Judge Bloch.

Do you think that public opinion brought to bear on the Negro who has been denied his right to vote is a deterrent to him bringing the action?

Mr. BLOCH. No, sir, I wouldn't say that it was. I say this to you. And I can only speak authoritatively for my county.

The Negroes vote there, and Negroes are registered to vote, and they do vote. And in two recent elections they have had the balance of power, and carried the election. But I say to you that if a Negro qualified to vote in Bibb County, Ga., applied to the registrars to vote,