

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Bloch, under that theory, I will say this:

It has taken about 100 years before the States have given some modicum of voting to the colored people, under the 15th amendment. It will probably take 200 or 300 more years, under your theory, to get a genuine voting privilege to the rank and file of the Negroes in your State, under those conditions. It would be utterly impossible, Mr. Bloch.

Mr. BLOCH. Well, with all due respect, that is the opinion of the Chair. But we do not know, because it never has been tried. Let one of them try it. Let anybody, white or black, brown or yellow, who claims that he has been denied his right to vote—why don't they go into the State courts and try it?

The CHAIRMAN. Well, the mere fact that you have told us that you know of no case, you know of no case that has been tried along these lines—

Mr. BLOCH. Why hasn't any case been tried?

The CHAIRMAN. Because it is so utterly impossible.

Mr. BLOCH. You are just assuming that.

The CHAIRMAN. In view of the fact that over the decades no one has tried it, is the clearest kind of indication that nobody wants to venture into that kind of dangerous ground because of the many things that can happen to him, and it is common knowledge, if you read the report of the Civil Rights Commission, you will read that when anyone asserts his rights, he is under a certain kind of danger.

Mr. BLOCH. They do what to him?

The United States of America filed suit September a year ago in the District Court of the United States for the Middle District of Georgia, on behalf of certain citizens, colored citizens, naming them. There has been no wrong done to them. Nobody has put any economic sanction on them or tried to hurt them.

The CHAIRMAN. The Attorney General has only brought four cases under the Civil Rights Act of 1957, and has clearly indicated the inefficacy of that act, and that is why we want to amend it and make changes.

Mr. BLOCH. Well, there have been four cases that I know of. There has been one in Georgia, there has been one in Alabama, there has been one in Louisiana—three cases.

The CHAIRMAN. Four.

Mr. BLOCH. Two in Louisiana—Larch against Hannah, and somebody else against Hannah. And in one of those cases, the Georgia case, the act was held unconstitutional. In the Alabama case, it was held that a State could not be sued. In the Louisiana case, I do not know just exactly what was held.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, in one of the Louisiana cases, they were ordered to put on the registration rolls 1,300 names that had been taken off the rolls.

Mr. BLOCH. And Judge Wright ordered them restored.

The CHAIRMAN. All the names had to be restored.

Mr. BLOCH. And the circuit court of appeals has vacated that order, or rather stayed that order. The Supreme Court of the United States, on the 23d of January, suggested to the Department of Justice that it file an application for certiorari before judgment, and the whole thing is set for argument before the Supreme Court on the 23d of February, as the first order of business on the convening of the