

Evidently Mr. Pearson picked up the story from somebody in the group, one or more, and printed it about 2 days after I mailed the letter. And because the version in the column was somewhat inaccurate. I thought I had better release the letter. I was of course called by the press about it, and I did release it, giving it to all the press at the same time.

The CHAIRMAN. Was that before it got to the White House?

Mr. MORGAN. No, sir. The Pearson article was published either 1 day or 2 days after the letter got to the White House, according to my recollection. And I released it to the press about 2 days after that.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, as has been indicated by others here, I want to commend you for your laudable suggestions regarding having men of ability, strength, and character. That is nothing new around here as to the principle. But being a Commissioner, in the position that you hold now, the implications and the tone of the letter have far-reaching effect.

You seem to be most unhappy with the majority Commission's decisions in several cases, from your letter and your explanation yesterday.

You said that some of the reasons for your decision not to seek reappointment were incorporated in your dissents. Now, in view of all that, you decided the best thing for you to do was to quit and get out of it. And then the technique of letting that all get out in the press—and I know how difficult it is around here, because I have some of that problem myself—but it does raise serious questions as to this method of trying to bring about a different type of commission.

I am glad to hear you say that you did not have that in mind at all.

I am also glad to hear that you did not have in mind any of the Commissioners, and you cannot refer to any existing Commissioners, according to your statements, and that is the thing that puzzles me about the whole thing.

On behalf of the committee I want to thank you for your appearance here.

It would seem to me that you have gotten yourself in a position, with all these statements, that it will make it mighty difficult for you to serve down there effectively now until June.

Mr. MORGAN. At least three of my colleagues and I have been in very strong disagreement on some matters for several months, and I have disagreed with all four of them on certain other matters for almost a year.

But as I said, we are mature men, we are not lacking in self-discipline, and for my part, I find my colleagues on a personal basis to be very attractive and friendly men.

The CHAIRMAN. But the way this has been brought about, with all the publicity, it seems to me it raises a very serious question as to how much good you can accomplish now during the next 4 months of your time left.

Have you given thought to that in view of your attitude and feeling toward this whole thing of not waiting until June?

Mr. MORGAN. No; I haven't given any thought to that.

The CHAIRMAN. Maybe they can put somebody else in there.