

Now, unfortunately, under the Maryland constitution, it is possible for the Governor to simply put through another bill several months later, at the new opening of the legislature, and that was done. So the wishes of the voters were frustrated.

Legally the Governor and the State legislature had a right to do this. I think there was widespread feeling in the State, however, from a moral point of view. This completely frustrated the expressed wishes of the people, and there is widespread puzzlement how this could be done after the voters voted it down.

Mr. CLEVELAND. Would the gentleman yield at that point?

Mr. LONG. Granted.

Mr. CLEVELAND. This referendum procedure would still be available, however, if this new bill that is in the legislature passes?

Mr. FALLON. The legislature has already passed it?

Mr. LONG. The legislature has passed it.

Mr. FALLON. That is why we are here today. Had the legislature not passed the bill, we would not be here.

Mr. CLEVELAND. Let me ask you this one question of fact. Even if we passed this bill that is before us now, do not the voters still have the right—

Mr. LONG. No, the time for taking it to referendum again has passed.

I had the very harsh decision to make as to whether I should petition the referendum again. I will tell you quite frankly why I did not. I did not because the Governor and the State legislature could have simply put through another bill the following year.

It is very expensive. It costs about \$25,000 to do this. They could put through another bill. The thing would not come up for a vote until 1968 anyway. Under the emergency procedures, they could have gone ahead with it in the meanwhile, and I would have been in the position possibly of petitioning the same thing twice to referendum on the same ballot.

It is also possible, I think very likely, in the new constitutional convention, there were very strong pressures to get rid of the whole referendum system. I might have been in the position of having spent a great deal of money and that of my followers to petition something and find the whole petitioning mechanism was wiped out.

Mr. CLEVELAND. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I would like to say this one point, do I understand your testimony, there was a referendum on the so-called duplicate bridge, parallel bridge?

Mr. LONG. That is right.

Mr. CLEVELAND. That 70 percent of the voters said "No"?

Mr. LONG. I would say 55 percent of the voters statewide said "No"; 70 percent in the Baltimore area.

Mr. CLEVELAND. You are telling the committee then that if we include the parallel bridge in this bill, we do so against the expression of public opinion?

Mr. LONG. I think that is fair to say, yes.

Mr. FALLON. What we are actually doing, Mr. Cleveland, is we are giving the legislature, the Governor, and the State of Maryland the right that the legislature wants to build these projects. They passed this bill at a better than two-thirds majority of the general assembly. This bill has already passed the house at one time but went over to the senate.