

Mr. CRAMER. So that those who voted on the new bill were fully cognizant of the expression of the will of the people expressed at the same time as they themselves were elected?

Mr. LONG. They were certainly cognizant of the will of the people, and I think they have deliberately acted to flout the will of the people.

I might point out in my opinion the construction of bridges and tunnels in Maryland is operated under conditions which I think do not really reflect the will of the people and have not for a long time, but I do not really want to get into that.

Mr. CRAMER. Despite the voice of the people?

Mr. LONG. That is what the referendum procedures are for, Mr. Cramer. As you know, they were instituted because it was felt you should have some appeal from actions of the legislature and this appeal was exercised.

Legally, of course, you are quite right.

Mr. CRAMER. I am asking a question, not stating a position.

I understand further that despite an expression of opinion on the part of the people, at the same time these legislators were elected, they themselves saw fit to pass a bill overwhelmingly?

Mr. LONG. That is right.

Mr. CRAMER. It having passed is the reason why this bill is before us now, to effectuate it so far as the Federal responsibility is concerned.

It is true, is it not, that so far as Federal responsibility is concerned, really, the only bridge that requires or necessitates this action is the Potomac River Bridge. Is that correct?

Mr. LONG. From what Mr. Fallon says. I must say I was not aware.

Mr. CRAMER. We will defer to the experts on that.

Mr. LONG. It was my opinion the controlling feature was navigable waters, but I would not want to argue with the chairman of the Public Works Committee.

Mr. CRAMER. Do I understand you are not in opposition, however, to building a bridge across the Chesapeake Bay at some other location than the Chesapeake Bay Bridge parallel?

Mr. LONG. Exactly. I feel that any bridge across the Chesapeake in any other location would be a great asset to the State of Maryland, and I would support the rest of this bill, but I do feel——

Mr. CRAMER. And the rest of this bill does provide for those other two locations?

Mr. LONG. That is right. So I proposed here in my statement that the bill be amended to delete the parallel bridge.

Mr. CRAMER. In other words, you are asking this committee to take away the discretion of the State as it relates to whether a bridge should be built as a parallel to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge?

Mr. LONG. Well, of course, it was not——

Mr. CRAMER. As compared to the other two locations?

Mr. LONG. Well, of course, I had nothing to do with Congress being given the decision over the authorization of the bridges. It might very well have been sound for Congress never to have asserted authority over these bridges. But since Congress does have this power, I am here to plead my case.

Mr. CRAMER. I believe we have been over that bridge, have we not?

Mr. LONG. I am here to plead my case.

Mr. CRAMER. So you are suggesting that rather than making it discretionary with the State by passing the Fallon bill, making it pos-