

Mr. McEWEN. That portion was similar to what is provided in this bill. Was that prior to or subsequent to the referendum that has been referred to?

Mr. FALLON. Prior to I think.

Mr. LONG. Prior to.

Mr. McEWEN. It was prior to the referendum?

Mr. LONG. Yes.

Mr. McEWEN. That is what I thought.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, it would not be necessary for Congress to act at all under the previous bridge act. Of course, we will have an authority on that subject shortly. What you are suggesting, as I see it—we will get authority to substantiate it one way or the other—you are asking us to inject ourselves into, in effect, vetoing a possible location the State could do without congressional action. They can build a parallel Chesapeake Bay bridge without asking any authority from Congress.

Mr. LONG. No, they could not under the present situation.

Mr. CRAMER. As far as constructing it is concerned?

Mr. LONG. No.

Mr. CRAMER. Well, we will get authority.

Mr. LONG. I think you ought to get authority on that.

I believe under the present situation there must be congressional authority before they can do it. That is why, of course, the parallel bill was introduced into Congress last year or the year before.

Mr. FALLON. What we are asking for is the authority to have these other projects in the already constituted authority. That is what we are asking.

Mr. LONG. And I am humbly suggesting to the committee you grant this authority except to delete that part which has to do with the parallel bridge.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Delete "parallel" and put one in the upper area where you are? That is what you are suggesting.

You have a lot of reasons for it, but that is actually what you are asking us to do.

Mr. LONG. All I am asking here today, Mr. Chairman, is for the committee to delete the "parallel bridge," and then I would be willing to leave up to the State roads commission, to its discretion, where to put the next facility, whether it built a harbor tunnel, a northern bridge, or a southern bridge.

I think even a southern bridge makes a lot more sense. It is not in my district. It makes a lot more sense, because it would build up a new area and do things for southern Maryland and the lower shore. It makes a lot more sense than to put a bridge alongside of another bridge.

Mr. HOWARD. Mr. Chairman, a question was asked a few minutes ago—I am not sure why it was—"In whose congressional district is this bridge, or will it be?" and the answer is it is in Congressman Morton's district, I believe.

Has Congressman Morton stated publicly his feelings and his wishes?

Mr. LONG. Congressman Morton is supporting this bill.

Mr. CRAMER. If the gentleman will yield, he advised me that he said he is in support of this legislation.

Mr. LONG. I think it would be a little surprising if he did not support a bridge to be built in his district.