

Mr. COLMER. Evidently I misunderstood the gentleman a moment ago about the fact that he had not taken any affirmative action on the firearms provision. In other words, you are still studying it.

Mr. CELLER. I beg your pardon.

Mr. COLMER. You are still studying it.

Mr. CELLER. Yes, sir.

Mr. COLMER. And, I think your committee ought to have an opportunity to come up with its recommendation and not be deprived of it.

I am going to leave this to the others—you know, that provision of the bill, as the gentleman is aware, is something that affects all section of this country.

I am going to leave this one observation. I realize that we have departed in many instances from the Magna Carta of the liberties of this young Republic as envisioned by the Founding Fathers.

But, we now have reached a stage in that process of removing the liberties and privileges and rights of our citizenship where no longer can a citizen of this great America acquire, enjoy and dispose of his private property as he sees fit, without the strong arm of the Federal Government reaching out and telling him how he has got to dispose of it.

Mr. Smith, Do you have any questions?

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Celler, I feel like you and I had a friendly walk around the track and we are pretty much back where we started a year ago.

I remember when the chairman of the Rules Committee mentioned he was going to hold hearings on H.R. 421 and your committee held hearings and placed these two bills together. I remember we had a discussion down the hall about separating the two bills. I said that if you reported H.R. 421 and H.R. 2516 separately I would cooperate with you in connection with those matters; but we are now back where we started from about the first of last year with the two of them together.

Mr. CELLER. That is correct.

Mr. SMITH. I would like to get into a parliamentary situation before the committee and the House.

I am not an expert, and we will not know precisely until this committee takes action concerning House Resolution 1100. Your request to the committee has been that we adopt it and send it to the floor and then there would be 1 hour of debate—I assume 30 minutes on each side, and it would be voted up or down. We have had some discussion here and a lot of discussion out of this room: are you requesting that your committee have time to debate the subject on the floor of the House prior to the vote on House Resolution 1100?

Mr. CELLER. I take it that this committee would have the authority to determine whether or not there should be more than 1 hour of debate on the resolution, House Resolution 1100, in which the whole subject matter could be the subject of the debate.

Mr. SMITH. I do not think that there is any doubt this committee has the authority to do what it wants as long as the majority of the House agrees—I am asking you if you wish some time to discuss the subject matter in H.R. 2516 before we reach the final vote on House Resolution 1100?