

legislative work, on the State level as well as the Federal level. Since I have been in legislative work I have been opposed to firearms legislation and I intend to oppose it in this bill and any subsequent bills that might come before this Congress. I oppose firearms legislation because I think it is another encroachment on the individual liberty of our citizens. I am sure what is written here is not as tough as it might be; I think it is just the beginning. Next year we will come along with another and amend section 231. I think it is well to nip these things in bud, but I would like to have your comments. You have really given thought to this section 231, and what a technique capable of causing injury might be.

As I read this, it could be anything. For instance, anybody that teaches boxing, anything capable of causing injury, could cause criminal liability to be incurred, under the terms of this bill.

Mr. DINGELL. Boxing, karate, judo would involve this. If you were to teach the old English style of single fighting with a staff, conceivably it would apply.

Mr. LATTI. How about archery clubs; about a year ago I bought my son an archery outfit and I was out there trying to teach him how to use it. As I read the bill, I would be teaching him and there is a possibility, if he gets in some involvement with three or more persons, that I could be held. I certainly would have reason to know that this could come about; do you agree with that?

Mr. DINGELL. This is one of the hazards of this section and this is one of the reasons I am here before this committee. As you know, I have indicated I have always supported the civil rights legislation. I have done it at considerable political cost to myself. I feel very strongly that we do have to take the steps necessary to see that all of our people have the rights that they need. This section does trouble me for the reasons you have indicated, and a number of others.

Mr. LATTI. Actually, this is no secret that most of this bill is written to give additional "rights" to the Negroes. Who would really bear the brunt of this particular section if it was to be enacted into law? Certainly we are talking about disorders which often happen in Negro sections of towns. Take Detroit—what if they had a gun club there? Some of the Negroes of Detroit would really have suffered for no good reason.

So, here directly, or perhaps I should say indirectly, we are tying up the Negro population with this type of legislation because they are really going to be affected when these civil disorders come about.

I also want to point out for the record, you stated that the Senate expeditiously handled this bill after cloture was voted and it is my understanding of the rules of the Senate that they had a hundred hours that they could have debated that bill after cloture was voted. They certainly did not debate that bill for a hundred hours, after cloture was voted.

Our constituents expect us to be reasonable individuals and not buy every piece of legislation that comes through the Congress merely because it might bear a label of civil rights. I want to commend you for taking the position that you have. This bill ought to go to conference or back to the Judiciary Committee. I, for one, have confidence in the Congress that it will pass civil rights legislation this session. Certainly we have a responsibility to act reasonably on any piece of legis-