

I have here a study made by the Library of Congress, Legislative Reference Service, which is a comparison of the open housing provisions of H.R. 14765, as passed by the House in August 1966, and H.R. 2516 as passed in the Senate on March 11, 1968.

A casual reference to that study will indicate that there is much in the so-called open housing provisions of H.R. 2516 which did not appear in the House bill which we had before us in the 89th Congress.

In view of Mr. Young's question of a few moments ago to Chairman Celler, I think it might be significant to point out that in the bill passed in the 89th Congress which, as Mr. Latta has so well said, was a Congress composed of different personnel to a major degree, the House very specifically wrote into that bill, section 403(e). That section provided:

Nothing herein is to be construed to prohibit a real estate broker, agent, or salesman, or employee or agent of any real estate broker, agent, or salesman, from complying with the expressed written instructions of any person not in the business or not otherwise subject to the prohibitions of subsection (b) or (e) with respect to the sale, rental, or lease of a dwelling owned by such person so long as the broker, agent, or salesman does not encourage, solicit, or induce the restricted instructions.

So it seems to me that the House, if we want to talk about what another Congress did, that the House in the 89th Congress met head on the problem which the gentleman from Texas—Mr. Young—and the gentleman from Florida—Mr. Pepper—have pointed out here.

I certainly concur with the gentleman from Florida that one of the elementary principles that we lawyers have always accepted was that a man could do through an agent what he could do himself.

I think that the attack in this bill upon an almost immutable principle of the law of agency is not justified and that we in this body should not embark upon a program of establishing bad law and bad precedents just because someone thinks that the other body might act differently.

Our responsibility to legislate wisely on any measure cannot be escaped by apprehension as to what the other body will do.

The first title of this bill, entitled "Interference With Federally Protected Activities," is a total misnomer. If we look at the language of the title, it provides that whoever, whether or not acting under color of law, does certain things is in violation of title I of this legislation.

Some of those things are voting or qualifying to vote, qualifying or campaigning as a candidate for elective office or qualifying or acting as a poll watcher or any legally authorized election official in any primary, special or general election.

So, really, what this is saying in this subsection is that the Federal Government is now going to preempt the body of statutory law in every State in this Union which relates to this subject matter.

It further inveighs against persons interfering with, whether under color of law or not, serving or attending upon any court in connection with possible service as a grand or petit juror in any court of the United States.

I take it that that means any local court as well as any Federal Court. I certainly don't recommend that we preempt the right of the States to control interference with serving as grand or petit jurors attending any court in connection with such service.