

Mr. MATHIAS. Well, I think that it is as germane to the bill as was the Cramer amendment germane to the civil rights bill of 1965 or 1966, whatever the year was. The Cramer amendment was ruled germane, the ruling of the Chair was upheld in the House, and I think it has that same kind of a relationship here.

As far as calling it a gun bill, or a gun law, it is a pretty pallid kind of a gun law. But I think it is germane and I don't think that it is a serious problem in this bill. I really don't, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Don't you feel that the appropriate committee considering that legislation is entitled to conduct the hearings and report it to this body for consideration?

Mr. MATHIAS. Well, I think the testimony which you gentlemen have heard from the distinguished chairman of that committee charged with that jurisdiction, Mr. Celler, would be influential on that subject and he seems to be agreeable to this procedure.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I don't want to put words in the mouth of the gentleman from Maryland, but I didn't know he always followed the gentleman who happens to be chairman of the—

Mr. MATHIAS. Well, the distinguished chairman asked me about the jurisdictional question and the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee has been here and I speak for myself as a single member of that committee that I feel this is very pallid language with regard to guns. I don't think it seriously affects this legislation one way or the other.

And I don't think it invades the area of gun control legislation which is now pending somewhat fitfully in the House Judiciary Committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Then finally, Mr. Mathias, don't you feel that your Committee on the Judiciary is entitled to consider in committee these far-reaching amendments? Here is a bill that has practically been re-written on the floor of the other body. I don't know just how many changes have been made.

I estimated over 20 changes have been made. Don't you think that your committee is entitled to some consideration of these changes and some hearings on it and then have it considered on the floor with the benefit of your hearings?

Mr. MATHIAS. Well—

The CHAIRMAN. Isn't that the ordinary procedure?

Mr. MATHIAS. I appreciate the chairman's solicitude for the jurisdictional prerogatives of the House Judiciary Committee.

The CHAIRMAN. That is one of the things that this committee always takes into consideration.

Mr. MATHIAS. Well, that is certainly a very important consideration. Legislation, and I say this with great diffidence and humility, because certainly the chairman and the other members of this committee have had much more experience with legislation than I have, but legislation is seldom the creature of some stereotyped proceeding.

The important legislation in the brief time that I have served in the Congress, important legislation finds its way into the statute books certainly according to the rules, but situations, events, circumstances, I think play their part in the manner in which we consider legislation.

What we are proposing, what I am requesting here today, is not without precedent. It has been done before when the conditions have