

been deemed appropriate and in my judgment, for what it is worth, uninformed as it is, I would say that these circumstances today were circumstances when it would be appropriate to follow the precedents which led us to this procedure.

The CHAIRMAN. If I recall correctly, Mr. Mathias, you were the author of an amendment to the 1966 act on housing?

Mr. MATHIAS. I believe, sir, I was the author of the language affecting housing in the entire bill.

The CHAIRMAN. How does this Senate version of it compare with yours?

Mr. MATHIAS. It is not as rigid in its enforcement provisions. It is milder in its enforcement provisions. It is a little broader in its coverage.

The CHAIRMAN. Now you are speaking of the Senate version?

Mr. MATHIAS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. I wondered if the gentleman wouldn't like to have the opportunity in his committee to consider his version of the bill and let the House also have an opportunity to pass upon that provision?

Mr. MATHIAS. Well, Mr. Chairman, of course I guess most of us who are in public life in one form or another are always glad to make speeches and expound and expostulate. I like it as much as anybody else. But it does seem to me that this is a subject that we have talked about, and talked about, and talked about.

Now, I personally am not afraid to put this to a test in the House as it is. I think, as I say, you gentlemen have given us the time for reflection and consideration. And I think it has been valuable. I was wrong and you were right. You have given us that time. Now I think you ought to give us the right to vote.

The House can then make the decision as to whether they want to accept the bill with the language as it is and if they don't, then some other considerations can be brought into the matter.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, may I express my appreciation to the gentleman from Maryland for the compliments he pays this committee, because it is now obvious that the only hearings so far as this body is concerned on the Senate version of this far-reaching legislation will have been in this committee, and if the proponents of this legislation had had their way, we would never have had any consideration in this House, we would have just taken it up and in a few minutes, 60 minutes, or less, disposed of it on the floor of the House.

So I thank the gentleman for his compliments.

Mr. MATHIAS. I hope that the time that has been spent so fruitfully, as the chairman recounts, will lead us to a very prompt opportunity to vote.

The CHAIRMAN. I wonder if I might just make an observation here and let the gentleman comment on it if he sees fit.

Mr. MATHIAS. Mr. Chairman, I always enjoy hearing your observations.

The CHAIRMAN. You are most gracious. I hope you don't exceed me in that respect.

Mr. MATHIAS. Well, you know they have always said the only thing that separates the State of Maryland from the solid South is the Potomac River, so—