

to consider the debate on the legislation relating to open housing, that it is hardly a matter that has not received attention in this body.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I wasn't talking about the open housing. I was speaking of the gun control legislation.

Mr. MACGREGOR. Mr. Chairman, if I may respond to that again, I appreciate I was not perhaps responsive to the chairman's question. I don't know whether my mail is indicative of the mail of the other Members of Congress. I suspect it is true of those of us who live in the upper Midwest area, where hunting and fishing is popular. But I suggest, Mr. Chairman, my mail has been heavy on this issue for years, and the mail of other Members have and probably all of us have given it a good deal of study and have taken a position with respect to firearms control legislation.

The CHAIRMAN. And, of course, that goes for housing and the other phases of the bill too?

Mr. MACGREGOR. I believe so.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, since the gentleman made that observation, I might say in response that although I live in another section of the country that I get mail, volumes of it, as the chairman of this committee, from all over the country, very little from my State, on this whole question. And it is preponderantly opposed to these provisions, the facets of this bill. And I just—well, I won't bother about repeating what I said this morning, but I am just wondering if our politicians are aware of the true thinking of the people of this country about having this business rammed down their throats, as it were, to use an archaic expression.

Mr. MACGREGOR. Mr. Chairman, if I might respond, and I believe the example I am now going to give you, sir, is relevant to the principal thrust of what you just said, even though we may profoundly disagree on some of these matters.

I had the opportunity to serve about a year ago as one of nine Members of this body on a select committee determining what recommendations we should make to the House of Representatives regarding the disposition of an errant Member-elect of this body. And my mail from all over the country, Mr. Chairman, ran 100 to 1 or 150 to 1 against the position that I recommended and that I felt to be right and constitutionally sound. And I feel, Mr. Chairman, that we are elected not only to represent the transitory majority of popular opinion, but we are elected to profoundly do what we deem to be right. And I so acted a year ago and I don't mean to assume a heroic pose which would be in any sense false, but I believe myself to be in the same position here today.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I congratulate the gentleman. Let's say I just wish that all legislators, not confining it to this body, would approach it on the same ground. If the gentleman feels that way about it, that is fine and I would certainly applaud him for it. I rather congratulate myself that I approach these things on that basis. And I think I do, I honestly think I do. And I sleep well at night. My conscience doesn't bother me on these things, nor does it bother me what somebody else thinks about it, whether it be the President of the United States or the leadership of one party or the other.