

expression, masters of our own destinies, in that the Attorney General tells the Civil Service Commission what areas need examiners for the purpose of listing those people previously disenfranchised.

The challenges, of course, we control, and our hearing officers hear such challenges. Their decisions are final and appealable only to the U.S. circuit court of appeals for the area in which the challenged person lives.

Observance—that is the third part of our operation—again, we are not masters of our destiny. We're subject to the request of the Attorney General for those areas in which he requests the Civil Service Commission to send observers for the purpose of observing the election, the casting of ballots, and the counting of the ballots. Our observers are on duty from about a half hour before the polls open until well into the following night, for counting of ballots and certifying by officials.

We have in this program handled about 160,000 people. About 158,000 have been declared eligible to vote. We have observed as of yesterday 22 elections, and have had a large number of observers handling this program.

In conservation of time, I believe that is the picture in a nutshell. I would be glad to answer questions.

Mr. BROOKS. I would say you have survived a very interesting assignment.

Mr. MATTHEWS. It has been most interesting and sometimes nerve racking.

Mr. BROOKS. And undoubtedly has helped to bridge a very difficult period in our Nation's growth. You certainly ought to be commended for not getting into any worse trouble than you probably already have.

Mr. MACY. This has been remarkably trouble free, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BROOKS. That's what I was going to say. It could have been a little sticky.

Mr. MACY. I feel that our people who have been engaged in this sensitive work have really performed remarkably well. We have had the minimum amount of friction with election officials, with other observers, and we feel that this really has been a major contribution to providing equal opportunity to vote.

Mr. RANDALL. I would like to ask you, you say as of yesterday—were you by any chance involved in Mississippi?

Mr. MATTHEWS. We were. We had 120 observers.

Mr. MACY. This is the Third Congressional District. We had observers there for the initial election, and then for the runoff yesterday.

Mr. MOORHEAD. What are the five States in which you're involved?

Mr. MATTHEWS. The five States are South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Georgia. We have been in all of them in either of these activities.

Mr. MACY. The bulk of the activity is in three States, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Mr. MATTHEWS. We have enjoyed being in the southern territory.

Mr. RANDALL. Warmer down there, isn't it?

Mr. MATTHEWS. Well, it is, that is quite true. Warmer in many ways.

Mr. THOMPSON. May I ask one question? The election yesterday in Mississippi, were there any—have you had any reports of irregularities?