



EDWARD M. KENNEDY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer's Briefing Materials **Charles Mathias Interview, 03/10/2006**

Robert A. Martin, Research Director

Miller Center Documents¹

- Charles Mathias Timeline.
- Charles Mathias Committee Service.

Secondary Source Materials

- Charles Mathias bio, <http://bioguide.congress.gov>.
- Adam Clymer, *Edward M. Kennedy: A Biography* (New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1999) pp. 347-349.
- *1970 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington: Congressional Quarterly Service) pp. 192-194.
- *1975 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington: Congressional Quarterly Service) pp. 521-525.
- *1982 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington: Congressional Quarterly Service) pp. 373-374.
- *1983 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington: Congressional Quarterly Service) pp. 600-602.
- Richard Cohen, "Will the Voting Rights Act become a Victim of its Own Success?" *National Journal*, 08/01/1981.
- *Tributes to the Honorable Charles McC Mathias, Jr. in the U.S. Senate: Upon the Occasion of his Retirement from the Senate* (Washington, D.C.: USGPO, 10/18/1986) pp. 33-34.

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HON. CHARLES MC.C MATHIAS, JR. TIMELINE

Prepared by Nadia Shairzay

Miller Center, University of Virginia, 01/30/2006

1922

July 24 Charles McCurdy Mathias Jr. is born in Frederick, Maryland. (*Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*)

1942

Mathias enlists to fight in World War II as an apprentice seaman in the U.S. Navy. (*Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*)

1944

Mathias is commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy. He graduates from Haverford College in Pennsylvania. (*Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*)

1944- 1946

Mathias is on sea duty in the Pacific, becomes a captain in the Naval Reserve. (*Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*)

1949

Receives a law degree from the University of Maryland. Mathias is admitted to the bar and begins practicing law in Frederick, Maryland. (*Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*)

1953-1954

State assistant attorney general for Maryland. (*Ralph Nader Congress Project Citizens Look at Congress, 1972*)

1954-1959

City attorney for Frederick, Maryland. (*Ralph Nader Congress Project Citizens Look at Congress, 1972*)

1958- 1960

Serves on the Maryland House of Delegates as one of seven Republican Delegates. Also works on his farm in Frederick, MD and in the law firm Mathias, Mathias, and Michel. Mathias is an inactive partner of the firm until 1969. (*Ralph Nader Congress Project Citizens Look at Congress, 1972*)

1960

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Serves on the House Judiciary and District of Columbia Committees. On the Judiciary Committee Mathias was important in the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the fair housing section of the 1966 Civil Rights Act. On the District of Columbia Committee he was a supporter of home rule for Washington DC. (*Ralph Nader Congress Project Citizens Look at Congress, 1972*)

1968

Mathias is elected to the U.S. Senate after defeating his friend, Democrat Daniel Brewster. Mathias joins the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committee and the District of Columbia Committee. (*Ralph Nader Congress Project Citizens Look at Congress, 1972*)

1969

October 9 The Senate Judiciary Committee votes 10-7 to report the nomination of Judge Haynsworth to the Supreme Court. EMK and Mathias vote against reporting the nomination. The Haynsworth nomination was strongly opposed by labor and civil rights groups (AFL- CIO, NAACP). Haynsworth was also criticized for presiding over cases in which he had some financial interest. (1969 CQ Almanac)

November 21 The Senate rejects the Haynsworth nomination, 45-55. (1969 CQ Almanac)

1970

February 16 The Senate Judiciary Committee votes 13-4 to report the nomination of G. Harrold Carswell as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court to the Senate. Mathias votes in favoring of reporting the nomination and EMK votes against it. Carswell was nominated by Nixon after Nixon's first choice, Clement Haynsworth was rejected by the Senate. Carswell received much criticism owing to his lack of qualifications and racist rhetoric. (1970 CQ Almanac, 158).

March 2 Senator Hugh Scott (R- PA) along with EMK, Mathias and seven other Senators on the Judiciary Committee propose a substitute amendment (Scott Amendment) to HR 4229 (Voting Rights Bill). The substitute amendment calls for the suspension of literacy tests until August 1975, not January 1974 as the House version calls for. The amendment also seeks to set uniform residence requirements for voting in national elections. The Senate later votes to substitute the Scott Amendment for the House version of the bill. (1970 CQ Almanac, 196-197)

April 8 The Senate rejects the confirmation of Carswell to the Supreme Court with a vote of 45-51. (1970 CQ Almanac, 161)

May 13 EMK and Senator Sam Ervin (D- NC) ask the Senate to oppose the District of Columbia Court Reform and Criminal Procedure Act of 1970 (D.C. Crime Bill). The bill was criticized by some in Congress for being unconstitutional. Opponents cited the provisions that allowed D.C. police officers to enter a building without knocking and allowed for broad wiretapping powers violated the Fourth Amendment. (1970 CQ Almanac, 211)

June 22 Nixon signs HR 4249 PL 91-285, to extend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to 1975 and to lower the voting age to 18. (1970 CQ Almanac, 192).

July 14 Mathias, a Senate conferees for the D.C. Crime bill does not sign the conference report. (1970 CQ Almanac, 217)

EMK and Mathias along with eight other Senators introduce the less controversial provisions of the crime bill in two separate bills as an alternative to the conference report. The conference report passes the Senate. (1970 CQ Almanac, 218)

July 29 The D.C. Crime Bill (S 2601- PL 91-358) passes Congress and is signed by Nixon. *(1970 CQ Almanac, 208)*

July EMK and Mathias support the authorization of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The bipartisan commission was created to investigate civil rights violations and report to the President and to Congress. *(1970 CQ Almanac, 715)*

Mathias along with EMK introduce an amendment to the 1970 Equal Rights Amendment to provide full representation in Congress for Washington DC. *(Ralph Nader Congress Project Citizens Look at Congress, 1972)*

EMK and Mathias oppose the decision to send U.S. troops to Cambodia. *(1970 CQ Almanac, 930)*

Mathias joins the Committee for Governmental Operations (later known as Government Affairs). *(1970 CQ Almanac, 41-43)*

1971

March Mathias and Hugh Scott (R-PA) co-sponsor a bill (S 956) which along with S 1 and S 382 form package legislation to place limits on political campaign expenditures. EMK is hesitant about the reforms arguing that a spending ceiling was unconstitutional. The three bills become S 382, the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 which fails to pass Congress. *(1971 CQ Almanac, 877)*

November The Senate Judiciary Committee approves the nomination of Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist to the Supreme Court. During the hearings questions were raised about the both nominees' views on civil rights and civil liberties. Mathias agrees with the approval of the Powell nomination but does so without supporting the language of the committee's majority report. EMK supports the Powell nomination and the majority report. For Rehnquist, Mathias agrees with the nomination but not with the majority report. EMK does not support the Rehnquist nomination because of his public statements supporting surveillance, wiretapping and broad executive power. *(1971 CQ Almanac, 857)*

December 6 The Senate confirms Powell. *(1971 CQ Almanac, 857)*

December 10 The Senate confirms Rehnquist. *(1971 CQ Almanac, 857)*

1972

Mathias joins the Special Committee on Termination of the National Emergency. *(1972 CQ Almanac)*

1973

Mathias leaves the Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committee. *(1973 CQ Almanac)*

1974

- November* Mathias is elected to a second term in the Senate. He receives 57 % of the vote; the highest voting percentage that a Republican running for Senate received in 1974. (*Senate Documents Nos. 38-44: Tributes to the Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. in the United States Senate*, 10/18/1986)
- December 12* EMK, Mathias and Mondale introduce a resolution calling on Ford to pursue nuclear arms reduction. This was after Ford met with Brezhnev in Vladivostok and both sides agreed to limit the number of bombers and missiles. (*Clymer*, 232)

1975

- July* EMK and other Democratic Senators oppose President Ford's proposal to phase out controls on domestic oil prices. Mathias along with Senators Edward Brooke and Charles Percy propose an energy program to increase the federal gas tax, tax cars with low gas mileage and increase tariffs on oil imports. (*The New York Times: Abstracts*, 07/15/1975)
- Mathias joins the Intelligence Committee (*1975 CQ Almanac*)

1976

- July* Alton Frye, author of *A Responsible Congress: The Politics of National Security*, comments that William Coleman, Carla Hills, or Senators Charles Percy, Elliot Richardson, Charles Mathias, Edward Brooke are possible running mates for Ford. (*The New York Times: Abstract*, 07/29/1976)
- Mathias leaves the Special Committee on Termination of the National Emergency. (*1976 CQ Almanac*)

1977

- February* Mathias is replaced as ranking minority leader on the Judiciary Committee with Senator Strom Thurmond. Mathias, as opposed to Thurmond, is considered a liberal on civil rights. (*The New York Times: Abstracts*, 02/11/1977)
- February 15* *Parade Magazine* calls Mathias "one of the most industrious, intelligent, and brilliant legislators" in the country. (*Senate Documents Nos. 38-44: Tributes to the Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. in the United States Senate*, 10/18/1986)
- November 3* Congress passes a supplemental authorization bill for the Defense Department (S 1863 PL 95-184). The most important part of the bill is the authorization for cruise missiles and an alternative missile carrier to the B-1 bomber. EMK and Mathias use the cruise missile debate to bring up the issue of arms control. Both Senators plan to propose an amendment expressing reservations and concerns about unchecked missile development. Instead EMK and Mathias agree to the language in the legislation that said the Senate would look into changing the

cruise missile program if it would help arms control negotiations. EMK and Mathias are concerned about cruise missile proliferation because it is very hard to tell if a launched cruise missile is armed with a nuclear or a conventional warhead. In addition, if the U.S. develops cruise missiles EMK and Mathias argue that European allies may ask for their own cruise missiles and this would be a blow to arms reduction. (1977 CQ Almanac, 393)

Mathias joins the Appropriations Committee. (1977 CQ Almanac)

1979

December

The Senate Judiciary Committee reports the Criminal Code Bill to change and rewrite the federal criminal code (S 1722- S Rept 96-553). S 1772 is a compromise piece of legislation worked on by EMK, Thurmond and Senator Orrin Hatch (R- UT). EMK, who is Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, plans to bring S 1772 to the floor in 1980 after companion legislation clears a House Judiciary subcommittee. (1979 CQ Almanac, 363). Only Mathias votes against reporting S 1772 when it is brought before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The issue that garners the most attention is that of labor extortion. After a lengthy meeting EMK, Hatch, and Thurmond come up with the compromise to ban “ federal extortion prosecution during a labor dispute unless there were ‘clear proof’ that the coercive conduct was a felony intended to cause death or sever bodily injury that was intended to further the aims of the labor dispute.” (1979 CQ Almanac, 364)

Mathias leaves the Intelligence Committee. (1979 CQ Almanac)

1980

Mathias is elected to his third and last term in the Senate. He receives the largest number of votes of any elected politician in the history of Maryland. (*Senate Documents Nos. 38-44: Tributes to the Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. in the United States Senate*, 10/18/1986)

1981

April 7

Mathias, EMK and six other senators introduce S 895 to extend the Voting Rights Act until 1992. (1981 CQ Almanac, 416).

October 5

House passes legislation (HR 3112) to extend the Voting Rights Act, but a similar measure does not pass the Senate. Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee Strom Thurmond is a long time opponent of the Voting Rights Act. (1981 CQ Almanac, 416)

November 18

Congress approves the Criminal Code Bill (S 1630). The sponsors of S 1630 are the same as for S 1722 (1979, Judiciary Chairman Thurmond, EMK, and Hatch). Mathias opposes the bill. The Moral Majority opposes the bill saying that it is too lenient and the ACLU rejects the bill as well, saying that some of the new offenses violated civil liberties. (1981 CQ Almanac, 432)

December 16 EMK and Mathias introduce S 1992 to extend the Voting Rights Act. EMK and Mathias are able to work with Dole to persuade him to support the bill. Dole's support also brings with it the support of other Republican Senators on the Judiciary Committee (*Clymer, 336*)

Mathias leaves the District of Columbia Committee and the Appropriations Committee. Mathias serves as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing and the Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library. Mathias also serves as Chairman of the Rules and Administration Committee (*1981 CQ Almanac*).

1982

June 23 Congress passes HR 3112 (the same as S 1992) to extend the Voting Rights Act for 25 years. It is signed by Reagan on June 29 (PL 97-205). (*Clymer, 336*)

The Criminal Code Bill falters in 1982 when the Senate fails to get enough votes to cut off debate on a motion to consider the bill (S 1630). Later, in September, S 2572, a more limited version of S 1630 passes the Senate. Mathias is the only dissenter. Mathias disagrees with the sentencing scheme which calls for the creation of a seven member commission to write sentencing guidelines for federal judges. (*1982 CQ Almanac, 417*)

1983

July 21 The Senate Judiciary Committee approves anti-crime legislation (S 1762) tackling problems like sentence disparities and racketeering. Mathias is the lone dissenter. S 1762 is co-sponsored by Biden D-DE, Judiciary Chairman Thurmond, Laxalt (R- NE), and EMK. Mathias' proposed four amendments to give judges more flexibility in imposing sentencing guidelines are rejected by the committee. (*1983 CQ Almanac, 316*)

August 2 A bill that EMK and Mathias introduced to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a federal holiday passes Congress. The legislation faces opposition from Helms who says that King was a Marxist with connections to communism. Helms also argues that EMK is upset with Helms because he disapproves of the wiretaps RFK placed on MLK. EMK offers an emotional response to what he calls a "smear campaign" against RFK. (*Clymer, 348*). The bill passes on August 2, 1983 and is signed by Bush on November 2, 1983 (HR 3706 PL 98-144)

1984

Mathias and EMK sponsor fair housing legislation to create administrative law judges and affair housing review commission to review fair housing cases before they were brought to court. (*The Washington Post, 05/20/1985*)

1985

October 15 Mathias is elected president of the North Atlantic Assembly, the parliamentary arm of NATO. (*The Washington Post 10/15/1985*)

Mathias joins the Foreign Relations Committee. (1985 CQ Almanac)

1986 EMK and Mathias propose another fair housing bill this time eliminating the fair housing review commission. (*The Washington Post*, 03/04/1986)

Mathias serves as Chairman for the Impeachment Trial Committee of Federal District Judge Harry Claiborne. This is the first Senate impeachment trial in 50 years. (1986 CQ Almanac)

1987

January 3 Mathias retires from the Senate.

1987- 1993 Mathias serves as partner in the international law firm of Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue.

1993-1999 President and Chairman of the Board of First American Bankshares.
(<http://www.worldspace.com/about/board.html#mathias>)

HON. CHARLES MC.C MATHIAS, JR. COMMITTEES

Prepared by Nadia Shairzay

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Mathias Senate Term: 1968-1987

Mathias Committees

Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committee, 1969-1973

Appropriations Committee, 1977-1981

District of Columbia Committee, 1969- 1981

Foreign Relations Committee, 1985-1986

Government Affairs Committee (also known as Governmental Operations), 1970- 1986

Impeachment Trial Committee, Chairman 1986. Impeachment trial of Federal District Judge
Harry Claiborne. First Senate impeachment trial in 50 years.

Intelligence Committee, 1975- 1979

Joint Committee on Printing, Chairman 1981-1986

Joint Committee on the Library, Chairman 1981-1986

Judiciary Committee, 1969- 1986

Rules and Administration, Chairman 1981-1986

Special Committee on Termination of the National Emergency, 1972-1976

Years of EMK's Committee Overlap:

Judiciary Committee, 1969-1986, EMK Chairman: 1979-1981