

Civil Rights

Voting My Conscience

The Honorable Paul Findley

U.S. Representative of Illinois

Representative Paul Findley of Illinois talks about the reaction in his district to his vote in favor of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Interview recorded January 12, 2015

The reaction to my positions, back in my home district, the reaction was quite mixed, and I would say that the majority of those who sounded off in one way or another was negative. I was not voting the current sentiment of my district when I voted for civil rights, but I had no, no regrets ever about how I did vote. And of course in my mind was the existence of the Lincoln home in the district I served, and of the fact that the NAACP was founded in the wake of terrible, bloody civil rights strife in Springfield, Lincoln's home area, that was a very unpleasant period. It could never happen again. The public, I think, has warmly embraced the, the civil rights bills and see today that it was the right thing to do.