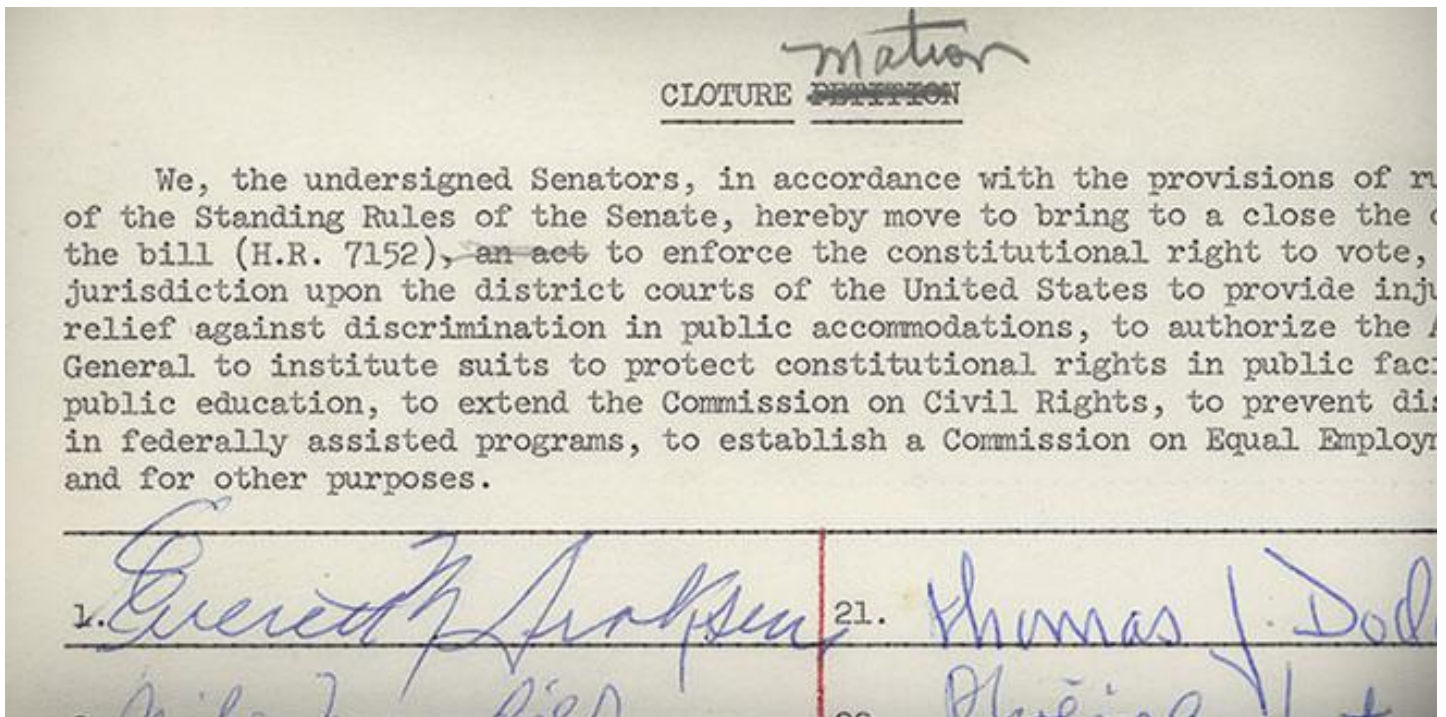


# GOP: On the Right Side of History



## Everett McKinley Dirksen – 1964 Civil Right Act

Everett McKinley Dirksen (January 4, 1896 – September 7, 1969) was an American politician of the Republican Party. He represented Illinois in the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate. As Senate Minority Leader from 1959 to 1969, he played a highly visible and key role in the politics of the 1960s. He helped write and pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Civil Rights Act of 1968, both landmark pieces of legislation during the Civil Rights Movement.

He was known as "The Wizard of Ooze" because of his flamboyant oratorical style.

In 1964, as Southern Democratic Senators staged a filibuster, which ran 54 days to block passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A substitute bill was introduced that they hoped would attract enough swing votes to end the filibuster. It was weaker than the House version, on the government's power to regulate the conduct of private business, but it was not so weak it would cause the House to reconsider the legislation.

Thus, after 57 days of filibuster, the substitute bill passed in the Senate, and the House–Senate conference committee agreed to adopt the Senate version of the bill. The 1964 Civil Rights Act was passed.

Dirksen is famous for his quotes which include, "A billion here, a billion there, pretty soon, you're talking real money" and "The mind is no match with the heart in persuasion; constitutionality is no match with compassion." (Source: Wikipedia)