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INSERT F, Into text, at p. 17.

The Court notes only three features of the legislative history of the Civil Rights Act. First, it reproduces statements attesting to the broad remedial scope of the law. Ante, at 13 & n.17. In view of our many decisions recognizing immunity of officers shed no light on congressional cupote, at under \$ 1983, those statements plainly have no dispositive impact on in fact with reflect to the immunity determination. Second, the Court cites Senator Stevenson's remark that frequently "a statutory liability has been created against municipal corporations for injuries resulting from a neglect of corporate duty." Ante, at 19, citing Cong. Globe, 42d Cong., 1st Sess. 762 (1871). The Senator stated the unobjectionable proposition that municipal immunity could be qualified or abolished by statute. His observation offers as support for the Court's view of the legisle true his try attempt to conjuge strict municipal liability from the silence of 1983.

municipal immunity when opponents to the bill did discuss the immunities of government officers. "Had there been a similar commonlaw immunity for municipalities, the bill's opponents doubtless would have raised the spectre of its destruction as well." Ante, at 20-21.

One cannot but stand in awe of the Court's continuing willingness to find meaning in silence, particularly when the very next sentence in the Court's opinion concedes, ingenuously, "To be sure, there were

protection from tort liability." Id., at 21. Since the opponents of the Sherman amendment vigorously expressed their conviction that strict municipal liability was unprecedented and unwise, the failure to recite the theories of municipal immunity cannot even establish that Congress doubted the existence of municipal immunity. That have the failure for the containly cannot contradict the many court decisions of the time applying that immunity. See infra, at

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