

Members of the House who have been constantly trying to get something like this established as a standing committee of the House.

He is here today to be heard; as I said, I introduced the same resolution as that offered by Mr. Bennett because I subscribe to it in principle and generally in form, although details of improvement may be suggested. Why, of course, I am sure that he, and certainly, I would be agreeable to their consideration.

Mr. Bennett is here today, he is accompanied by two of my other distinguished colleagues from Florida, Mr. Fascell and Mr. Gibbons, all of whom subscribe to these principles and are here to be heard before the committee.

I am sorry that I will not be able to be here to hear them, but I just did want to make that preliminary statement in view of the fact that I shall have to be absent probably during these hearings.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Bennett, we will be pleased to hear from you.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, would it be entirely irregular to ask the gentleman to answer one brief question, because he may be the only member of the Powell committee to testify before the group? I think it is pertinent.

The CHAIRMAN. Go ahead.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. I concur in your statement and I appreciate your statement, but I have this question: As a member of the ad hoc Powell committee do you feel that the investigation of the Powell matter could have been conducted more expeditiously and the committee could have worked its will more easily and in a better fashion if there had been in existence a select committee such as the one proposed by the Bennett resolution, which had already promulgated a set of standards of conduct so that the committee would have had fixed guidelines by which to proceed?

Mr. PEPPER. I am pleased to answer my distinguished friend from Illinois very strongly in the affirmative.

The committee determined to limit its investigation of Mr. Powell's alleged official misconduct to the beginning of January 1961. I think that's when he became chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, but this course of conduct which has been the subject of the committee's inquiry and was the subject of the House is concerned—had been going on for several years and building up, getting worse and worse—the cumulative effect of it.

If there had been a standing committee it may well be that the man himself would have been spared the tragedy of his case as it now appears and the Congress would have been spared the embarrassment of having to deal with a Member who has been here 23 years, as this committee is called upon by the direction of the House is going to have to do.

So, I think that the existence of this committee will do a great deal to keep these cases from building up into causes celebres, as it were. Of course, they are there all the time. As soon as the whispers begin to get around and reports begin to circulate, why, either somebody could be called in to have a talk with them and say we have had complaints about your committee and we thought you ought to be informed about these complaints and so-and-so and so-and-so. It maybe could