

Mr. PEPPER. These things have been disclosed through the years. It was in the press when Mrs. Powell was here, 5 years being on her husband's payroll, she never got but two checks. Probably somebody would have found out about it prior to the end of 5 years and the amount would not have built up to such an amount as it is and this erroneous airplane travel where the chairman and one or more members of the committee traveled under assumed names, that is built up now to where it is quite a sum of money.

The scope of it would certainly not have reached, it seems to me, the proportions that it has today if there had been some committee that was authorized to have taken jurisdiction, but in this case it had to wait until an aroused country and an aroused House finally determined to do something about it and appointed a special committee.

All these years a lot of these practices have been going on and there wasn't anybody to do anything about them.

Mr. LATTA. One further question: Say you had this meeting you referred to and you call this individual in. You have gotten these reports. Take this case of Adam Clayton Powell, suppose this committee, the creation of which I favor as you know—suppose you call him in and he takes the fifth like he did. What are you going to do in that case?

Mr. PEPPER. That's up to the committee. I want to make it clear I was speaking for Mr. Bennett, Mr. Fascell, and Mr. Gibbons. I was giving my own ideas how the chairman might operate the committee. That seemed to me to be a proper thing.

In the case you put, the chairman would never have said anything to the Member unless he had conducted a quiet investigation and found that there was a prima facie justification for the criticisms that had been made.

Now then, if the Member scorns the factual and the kindly, cooperative inquiry from the committee, why then, if the case justifies it, the committee will have to decide whether to hold a public hearing and take the normal procedures of redress.

Mr. LATTA. Then if this committee does find that he has done these things like having people illegally on his payroll, outside the country, and so forth, would you think that this select committee ought to just tap his wrist and say, "You put the money back, that's all we are going to do to you"?

Mr. PEPPER. The resolution, the language, will provide the things that the committee may do.

Now, that is up to this committee to approve or not to approve and up to the House to decide whether this is the authority that the committee should have or not. I think it is a matter that should be given a lot of care, as my friend here from Massachusetts points out. We have to be careful to avoid abuse, to avoid extremism and that sort of thing.

But the committee would certainly have authority to hold a public hearing and to make recommendations in cases which it appeared justified affirmative action on the part of the committee just as this special committee is doing right now.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. YOUNG. Might I say, Mr. Chairman, before we get away from this point—