

The CHAIRMAN. All right, Mr. Young.

Mr. YOUNG. I hope that your committee will be careful to emphasize that the reprehensible aspect of padding the payroll is in padding the payroll, whether it be with relatives or nonrelatives. A lot of people around here—obviously I have none or I wouldn't be speaking like this—but there are a lot of people that have some relatives on the payroll that work hard and do good jobs.

It is very unfair to penalize them, but padding the payroll is wrong. It doesn't make any difference whether you do it with a relative or not.

Mr. PEPPER. That is the reason I say that a standing committee like this would be a protection to Members. Well, a Member could say, for example, before a standing committee, "My relative is on my payroll. I ask this committee to make an investigation to see whether or not it is a padded payroll or whether service is being rendered." It would be a protection to the Member who observed the proprieties as well as the means of punishment for the one who does it.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Now, Mr. Bennett, if there is anything left for you to say. [Laughter.]

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Chairman, as usual, very eloquent.

Before I get into the formal part of my presentation and relative to what has just been said, it seems to me that it would be a good suggestion, if I am on the committee next time, I would expect to recommend that it be set up as a first matter of business that a resolution be passed that no matter should be considered as under investigation by this committee until after the passage of a motion by the committee expressly stating that the matter is under consideration.

This would keep somebody from writing in to the committee and branding a person on the theory that they were under investigation by the committee and I think it would be a very proper thing to do so. It could not be used in that manner.

Of course, this could be done right now. Anybody can write a letter to the Speaker or the President and say he is under investigation, but I think this would be a good thing to do to forestall anything like that.

STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES E. BENNETT, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Chairman, I deeply appreciate the opportunity to appear before this committee in behalf of House Resolution 18 unanimously recommended by the House Select Committee on Standards and Conduct, which had a short life—from October 19, 1966, to January 3, 1967.

The House Select Committee on Standards and Conduct was directed by Congress to recommend to the House "such additional rules or regulations as the select committee shall determine to be necessary or desirable to insure proper standards of conduct by Members of the House and by officers or employees of the House."

In its report to Congress (H. Rept. 2338, 89th Cong., 2d sess.), the committee asked that the committee be reconstituted because there