

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. One question, Mr. Chairman.

Section 2(b) of your resolution, Mr. Bennett, refers to the power of the select committee to make an investigation of any violation by a Member, officer, or employee.

What would you do given the case of someone like the former secretary to the Senate majority who resigns before the full story of his misdeeds unfolds? Would the committee have jurisdiction to entertain charges in a case like that and conduct an investigation?

Mr. BENNETT. Well, the committee, after this legislation is passed, if it is passed, would have no jurisdiction to investigate unless it violated existing statutes at the time that the man performed the duties, not the duties but the improprieties.

I want an extra copy of this so I can give this to Mr. Anderson. So it is difficult for me to say what would be done about the former Secretary of the Senate, because I do not have all the facts before me. But if this was enacted and he had done this in the House and there was a law duly enacted by Congress, either in the future or in the past, as set out in the report, and he violated it, he could be given a censure. That's all he could be given under this legislation. He could just be censured for his act.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. But you speak of employees. He would actually be an ex-employee if he had resigned. Do you still think the language is broad enough to cover that contingency?

Mr. BENNETT. Well, I think it is broad enough to cover an ex-employee providing he did the thing that was wrong after the law had been enacted and he violated the law. I think he could be censured. I don't know how easy it would be to censure him after he left the employment. I think that really has more effect upon the people who expect to continue their employment than it does those who have already left.

So whether the committee would waste its time to censure somebody after they left, I don't know. The only thing for this committee would be to bring a proper case, one reflecting upon the House, publicly, not a private matter, brought to the attention with all these safeguards to investigate his act, if his act occurred in violation of a law which existed at the time when he did the violation.

That is a very narrow field, but I do think it is a step forward.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. That's all the questions I have.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Delaney?

Mr. DELANEY. At the conclusion of the hearings on this select committee, you would file a report with recommendations; is that right?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes.

Mr. DELANEY. And then, in order to have it effective, it would have to go to one of the committees of the House?

Mr. BENNETT. No, I think the committee would be able to take any resolution that was assigned to it by the Speaker and operate on it as if it were a legislative committee, could report it back to the House and the House and the House could act upon it. I don't think it would have to go through another legislative committee.

Mr. DELANEY. A select committee does not report directly to the House, does it?