

Mr. Bolling yesterday to leave out that provision just mentioned on line 25, I think the committee would still serve a useful purpose. I must admit I think it serves a less useful purpose.

Mr. LATTA. Let me say I am interested in the creation of a committee that will have authority to investigate acts of Members of Congress which bring disgrace on this body, whether it is by statute or otherwise. Let me give you an example of an individual who, through his personal conduct, disgraces the Congress. Let us assume this individual is a father; he does not support his family. He runs around with about 10 different women. This has become public knowledge; it is spread across the papers. He does not pay his debts; he has filed bankruptcy many times; he is a drunkard; he goes through the Halls of this Congress in drunken fashion; uses loud and boisterous language in the Halls of the Congress, and so forth, but he is not violating any law that you can put your finger on perhaps other than in being loud and disorderly.

Unless you can pinpoint that this man is violating a statute, even though this individual, in my humble judgment, would be bringing disgrace on this Congress, your committee would not have the authority to get in and say, "Listen, you are bringing disgrace on the Congress. Unless you do something about your personal conduct, we are going to censure you."

Now, as I interpret what you said yesterday, and what you said this morning, if you create this committee, cut out all powers that I think rightfully should be granted it, you are not going to be able to do that. But this individual would be bringing disgrace on the Congress.

Do you want to comment on this?

Mr. BENNETT. I certainly believe that the way in which you and I introduced this resolution and the select committee recommended is the proper procedure but it would certainly be preferable to have some committee make some step forward than to have no committee.

Very strong elements are opposing any committee in this field or at least urging that a committee be constituted which will not be a separate committee on a nonpartisan basis, a full committee to look into these matters. Being a practical man, I want to make some step forward. I am not saying that I prefer deleting it. I certainly do not prefer deleting it. I think the deletion of it closes all possibility of looking into things that perhaps should be looked into in extreme cases.

I think only in extreme cases. But there has been so much agitation among Members of Congress and despite the fact that every Member of Congress knows what it is to be in the busy life we have, inaccurately portrayed in the press—and I am not trying to blame the press, because it is partly our fault, I guess—despite that, there seems to be a desire to take the press over and above what the man actually said on the floor and in hearings and this sort of thing. Plus other things, they are making it quite a job to get any kind of committee born here.

Mr. LATTA. Let us take what you said here: you are interested in getting something. I am not particularly interested in just getting something. I want to see a resolution be reported from the Rules