

Committee and be adopted on the floor, creating an ethics committee that has some power. I don't want to just see some headlines come out that the Congress has created an Ethics Committee that does not have any powers.

Now, we well know that this resolution that we have before us today is not the same resolution that was passed by the last Congress, because item B, under section 2, was stricken by the Hays amendment, and by adopting that Hays amendment we took all powers to investigate away from the Select Committee on Ethics.

But the general public thought that your committee had those powers. It is very difficult to try to operate. Now, you have been criticized by Mr. Hays, the very individual that offered the amendment for not doing something in 2 months.

I can refer to his remarks here of yesterday. It seems to me that you are just asking for more trouble and more criticism, not only by Mr. Hays and other individuals who are opposed to the creation of this committee, but by the general public, when you come before the Rules Committee here this morning and say that you want something rather than nothing. I think you ought to be taking a strong position and say that you are for the creation of the committee that will do the job.

Mr. BENNETT. That last statement I can certainly buy. I am in favor of the last. I am also in favor of the former, if that is all I can get, because I do think that there is some value in setting up a committee that would have the powers, even with the powers that we discussed a moment ago. I can see how you feel about it. I am disturbed that apparently some Members of Congress who feel that any Member of Congress, and particularly myself, who certainly has never opened his mouth in derogation of any individual at any time, would be thought to be a person that would do any witch hunting or snooping or anything like that. After all, I am 56 years of age. I have been in Congress 19 years. Nobody has yet pointed out any time when I have ever done anything like that. And I don't enjoy the stumbling of any of my brethren. I would hope that this committee, as I said yesterday, would be a committee that would be characterized by preventing rather than by penalization.

But if this is the opinion that my brothers have in Congress of me, then I would say it would be better if someone else were chairman of the committee. I have already offered not to be a member of the committee, if that is a stumbling block for this committee, because this committee is an important idea, it should go forward, there should not be personalities.

It ought to be on the basis of having a standing committee, if possible. There certainly ought to be a full committee devoting all its time to the field of ethics, improving standards. It ought to be a non-partisan committee and it ought to be done in an important manner so that this country will know that it is going to be given real attention to. I would much prefer it had all the things in it that are in this resolution before us today and I hope the committee will bring this out.

Mr. LATTA. Let me say, Mr. Bennett, that I am not one of those and I have not heard anybody say it, that feel that you would be too tough