

Mr. LATTA. What I have reference to is the fact that you have offered to delete these things other than the matters dealing with the statute.

Mr. BENNETT. It is the greatest reason, the only reason, really, why I think the code of ethics should be left in because it is the only thing that has any breadth to it at all.

Mr. LATTA. If you are talking about ethics, I think you should be talking about ethical conduct. I have not read until yesterday the code adopted for civil service employees some years ago, but if you are talking about ethics, I think ethics are ethics, and everybody ought to be required to abide by them.

If we are going to create an ethics committee, I think it ought to be involved with ethics. I don't think it ought to be necessarily involved with violations of statutes. If somebody is bringing disgrace on the Congress regardless of whether he is violating the statute, I think that it is the duty of this committee if it is formed to do something about it.

Mr. BENNETT. I do have great doubt in my mind why a fine group of men, as all the House of Representatives, should have any apprehension about unfair or snooping or witch-hunt type of activities in the private lives of anybody when most of us have a direct analogy in our own background.

Most of us were lawyers before we came here. I stopped practicing law when I came here in 1949, but most of us have this background and we have a grievance committee or ethics committee in the law. I don't think there is any lawyer in this country that would say this is not a good thing to have.

They have not expressed concern over the fact that the committee would do something that is improper. I don't know anyone that has a feeling like that. I think we ought to do this in the context of reality. After all, the Senate passed one with very broad powers, even, I guess, the power of recommending to impeach; all kinds of recommendations could be possible; expulsion and things of that type are possible under the Senate thing and nobody has had grave concern about that. It is like going into the dentist chair—the apprehension is many times much worse than the reality.

Mr. LATTA. Have you seen a copy of the Senate resolution creating this committee?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes.

Mr. LATTA. The powers given to them?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes; I have a copy. The major difference between this and that was set out in my testimony yesterday. The major difference is section 2(a)(2). It has the power to "recommend to the Senate by report or resolution by a majority vote of the full committee disciplinary action to be taken with respect to such violations which the select committee shall determine after according to the individuals concerned due notice and opportunity for hearing to have occurred."

That certainly is very broad power, much broader than this little resolution we have brought forth here. I don't think there is any ground for all this apprehension on the part of Members of Congress. There is nobody in this room that does not love the institution of Congress and does not want to help everybody to make it strong and make our country strong. Nobody in Congress differs with that objective. The apprehension I think is entirely unfounded.