

Mr. LATTA. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Young, do you have any questions?

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Chairman, I don't have any questions at this time. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Matsunaga?

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BENNETT, you stated in your prepared statement that you felt that the women reporters whom you talked with felt that the formation of this committee was to be nothing but a whitewash. If this be the feeling among reporters and they are the ones who tend to formulate public opinion, would it not be better not to form this committee?

Mr. BENNETT. Well, I paid the penalty with this newspaper story of antagonizing many Members of Congress, but I assure you I did not antagonize the public. Perhaps if you look at this thing both ways, you will see that maybe it was a good thing that I tried to reassure the press and reassure the public that this was not going to be a whitewashing proposition. I will be very frank with you. I don't know whether I will be appointed chairman or not, but if I am appointed chairman, I don't think anybody will get the impression that the committee would be a whitewashing committee, but, rather, that it would be a committee which would try to raise the standards by prevention, if possible, and in extreme cases seriously reflecting on Congress, with competent evidence, properly presented, that censure-ship would be recommended. But it would be very carefully done to see that nobody is unduly hurt.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. You feel that a committee even without the powers that you originally asked for would still be considered as not a whitewash committee?

Mr. BENNETT. I think many people in the public would get the impression if the provisions are stricken with regard to the code of ethics for Government service, if that is stricken, I think many people in the public would come to the conclusion that it was a whitewashing committee.

I, myself, have not come to this conclusion because I think we would have tools with which we could do some good. But if Congress is so apprehensive that they would not want to go into that, that is up to them. I think they will pay a price for it. I think as between that and doing nothing, it is better to do that and the public image would be better to do that than it would be to do nothing.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Now, referring to page 2 of the resolution, line 19, beginning at line 19, "to report violations, by a majority vote of the select committee, of any law to the proper Federal and State authorities."

By this is it intended that a committee or designated member of the committee shall be the complainant?

Mr. BENNETT. Of course, this was written on the floor of the House, you realize. This was not the resolution which I introduced last year. What we are doing here is bringing to you a simple package—very simple. It is exactly what the House of Representatives requested last time, and enacted with the simple exception of adding section 2(b), which is line 22; that is all that is added over what Congress did last time.